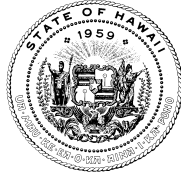


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
*Ke Kia'āina o ka Moku'āina 'o
Hawai'i*

SYLVIA J. LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
*Ka Hope Kia'āina o ka Moku'āina
'o Hawai'i*



KALI WATSON
CHAIRPERSON, HHC
Ka Luna Ho'okele

KATIE L. LAMBERT
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIR
Ka Hope Luna Ho'okele

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS
Ka 'Oihana 'Āina Ho'opulapula Hawai'i

P. O. BOX 1879
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

**TESTIMONY OF KALI WATSON, CHAIR
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS AND
ENERGY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
ON MARCH 24, 2026 AT 1:10PM IN CR 224**

HB1307, HD2, RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

March 24, 2026

Aloha Chairs Richards and Wakai, Vice Chairs Lamosao and Chang, and members of the Committees:

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) **supports** this bill which appropriates funds to DHHL for water well development for geophysical investigation, exploration, and identification of geothermal resources on Hawaiian Home Lands.

This legislative proposal was approved by the Hawaiian Homes Commission. DHHL is currently in the exploration/investigation phase of development of geothermal resources on its trust lands. Earlier work done at the University of Hawai'i has identified several sites where the probability of finding viable geothermal resource warrants further investigation. By island, these sites include:

- Hawai'i: Humu'ula/Upper Pi'ihonua, Pu'ukapu, Kawaihae and Kamā'oa/Pu'u'eo (South Point)
- Mauj: Kahikinui and Wākiu/Hāna
- Moloka'i: Ho'olehua/Nā'iwa
- O'ahu: Lualualei/Wai'anae Valley, Waimānalo, Ha'ikū Valley, Waiāhole
- Kaua'i: Upper Wailua

The customary exploration process would be to first conduct on-site inspections and certain geoscientific surveys including non-invasive geophysics testing (e.g., gravity and magnetotellurics), geochemistry and conceptual modelling. If the results of that testing warrant further investigation, then slim-hole exploratory well drilling and analysis would be called for. The preliminary estimate of the expense of geoscientific surveys at all 12 sites would fall in the \$4M - \$5M range. The preliminary estimate of the expense of slim-hole drilling at 6 (assuming a 50% rate of

advancement) of the sites would fall in the \$40M - \$50M range. DHHL would look to contract with the University of Hawai'i and its Hawai'i Groundwater & Geothermal Resources Center (HGGRC) for this work but anticipates needing to additionally hire industry drilling consultants and crews to meet the anticipated demand for services.

DHHL is currently preparing to conduct in-person and virtual beneficiary informational briefings at homestead communities throughout the state. These opportunities to share information and receive feedback regarding DHHL's geothermal exploration program and the potential benefits of geothermal development to the trust and our beneficiaries are scheduled to commence in April/May 2026.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

March 24, 2026

RE: TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS. Appropriates funds to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands for water well development for geophysical investigation, exploration, and identification of geothermal resources on Hawaiian home lands. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD2)

Aloha Chair Richards and Chair Wakai, and Members of the Senate Committees on Hawaiian Affairs and Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs, respectively.

In **strong support of H.B. 1307 HD2**, which appropriates funds to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) for water well development and the geophysical investigation, exploration, and identification of geothermal resources on Hawaiian Home Lands. This measure represents a forward-looking investment to responsibly advance geothermal resource development as a long-term revenue-generating strategy for the HHCA trust.

For the record, my name is Kainoa Lei MacDonald, and I am a beneficiary on the Hawaiian Homes waitlist. I am testifying in support of H.B 1307 HD2, as Chair of the Association of Hawaiians for Homestead Lands (AHHL), a homestead association advancing the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act (HHCA) for the more than 29,000 beneficiaries on the DHHL waitlist, and through other beneficiary-led organizations.

This funding request aligns with Article XII of the Hawai'i State Constitution, which affirms the State's obligation to adequately support DHHL in developing homesteads and serving beneficiaries. Creating revenue streams when executed properly, geothermal commercialization can create sustained revenue that accelerates homestead development.

I share this perspective from firsthand experience. Traveling to Aotearoa and engaged with Māori leadership and community members in the Waikato region, participating in iwi and whānau decision-making processes regarding land back initiatives.

Māori-led geothermal initiatives show how resource stewardship and self-determination generate lasting community benefit. **This demonstrates what is possible—and what should be expected under HHCA's fiduciary duties.**

With proper safeguards in place, H.B. 1307, H.D.2 Including beneficiaries before decisions are made can move forward in a manner that is accountable, and pono. When aligned with the vision of Prince Kūhiō and the intent of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act Trust. We applaud DHHL for proactively spearheading commercialization efforts on lands under its stewardship for the benefit of beneficiaries of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act. For the record, the AHHL board is available as a subject matter beneficiary waitlist resource.

Me Ke Aloha Nui,

Kainoa Lei MacDonald

Chair, Association of Hawaiians for Homestead Lands (AHHL)

The Association of Hawaiians for Homestead Lands (AHHL) is a national waitlist governed association founded in 2009, a member of the Sovereign Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations (SCHHA). The AHHL is a Homestead Beneficiary Association (HBA) registered with the U.S. Department of Interior, meeting the federal definition under 43 CFR Part 48.6. Dedicated to *Ending the Hawaiian Home Land Waitlist* by pursuing reforms and delivering services that create success for native Hawaiians to homestead and build mercantile businesses.



Sustainable Energy Hawai'i

sustainableenergyhawaii.org
info@sustainableenergyhawaii.org

March 24, 2026

TESTIMONY in SUPPORT of HB1307 HD2

'RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOMELANDS'

Aloha Chairs Richards and Wakai, members of the committees:

Sustainable Energy Hawaii supports HB1307 HD2, which “Appropriates funds to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands for water well development for geophysical investigation, exploration, and identification of geothermal resources on Hawaiian home lands. “

Hawai'i likely has accessible geothermal resources statewide. According to the Hawai'i Groundwater and Geothermal Resource Center (HGGRC) at UH Manoa, the detailed characterization of its subsurface geology remains virtually unknown outside of Hawai'i Island's East Riff Zone. Historically, this has been due to lack of financial support. If passed, HB1307 HD2 will fund some, but not all, of the data acquisition needed to de-risk geothermal development decisions in Hawaii. We encourage our state legislature to appropriate this funding, furthering our collective progress toward that ultimate end.

It is known that the ability to generate clean, dispatchable and baseload power is a required component of a modern, non-fossil-fuel energy infrastructure. Additionally important, geothermal self-generated power would serve as a hedge against both natural and man-made disasters. Hawaiian energy self-sufficiency is an urgent goal, one that will benefit all who call Hawai'i home for generations to come.

SEH supports a broad statewide policy for the funding of cost effective, by qualified geophysical and geothermal research entities such as HGGRC to characterize our subsurface and geothermal resources for the purpose of effectively supporting DHHL's commercial development efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sustainable Energy Hawai'i

Sustainable Energy Hawaii is a statewide 501(c)(3) nonprofit advancing clean energy policies and renewable energy deployment through public education, policy advocacy, and stakeholder engagement. For more information, visit sustainableenergyhawaii.org.

HB-1307-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/24/2026 3:26:46 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
SYBIL LOPEZ	Testifying for Moku-puni Community Development Corporation	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair Richards, Chair Wakai, and Members of the Senate Committees on Hawaiian Affairs and Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs,

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of HB 1307, HD2.

My name is Sybil Lopez, Moloka‘i Moku-puni Director for the Sovereign Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations (SCHHA), where I have worked for over a decade to uphold the intent of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act (HHCA). Acknowledging that there is, and may continue to be, opposition among beneficiaries regarding geothermal development, these concerns must be respected. At the same time, the Department has a responsibility to be more inclusive of Native Hawaiian homestead beneficiaries and beneficiary associations by fostering meaningful engagement, transparent communication, and shared decision-making. By doing so, the Department can build trust and strengthen the capacity of homestead communities to exercise greater self-determination and sovereignty in shaping their future.

PURPOSE. HB 1307 appropriates funding to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands for water well development and geophysical investigations to identify geothermal resources on Hawaiian Home Lands. This is a critical step toward energy sovereignty, economic self-sufficiency, and long-term self-governance for beneficiaries.

VALUES. I had the privilege of participating in a geothermal cohort that traveled to Aotearoa, where we were able to learn directly from our Māori cousins. Through this experience, I witnessed models of geothermal development in which Indigenous communities plays an integral role within its economic structure, centered as active partners in stewardship, decision-making, and long-term benefit. This approach reflects a relationship grounded in mutual respect, cultural values, and shared responsibility. As a Māori proverb shared during our visit:

He aha te mea nui o te ao?

He tangata, he tangata, he tangata.

(What is the most important thing in the world? It is people.)

As we move forward, this work must protect and prioritize our ‘āina, wai, and kanaka.

IMPACT. For Moloka‘i, where electricity costs are among the highest in the state, geothermal offers a pathway to reliable, locally generated energy that can reduce costs and strengthen resilience. Beyond energy, it creates cascading benefits—supporting agriculture, food production, infrastructure, and local economic opportunities that directly serve beneficiaries while ensuring that our beneficiaries return to their homelands.

ASK. As this measure advances, I respectfully urge the State to ensure:

- Early, island-based informational sessions
- Direct engagement with homestead associations
- A process that leads to true consultation, not just notification

Development must reflect not only feasibility, but also the ‘ike, values, and kuleana of beneficiaries whom Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana‘ole intended to serve. MokuPuni Community Development Corporation’s (MCDC) primary focus is to uphold the rights of Native Hawaiians beneficiaries of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920 to strengthen health, economic resilience, preserve ‘āina and culture for the long-term sustainability of Moloka‘i’s homestead communities. MCDC is working with DHHL to prepare and deliver meaningful statewide beneficiary informational briefings starting this May.

HB 1307 is more than energy exploration—it is about creating a future where beneficiaries can shape and benefit from the responsible use of our resources. I respectfully offer myself as a beneficiary resource as this measure moves forward.

Mahalo Nui, Sybil Lopez

HB-1307-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 6:39:10 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary True	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support geothermal exploration in order to exploit a cheap, renewable source of energy.

Aloha and mahalo, Mary True, Pepekeo

HB-1307-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 9:56:30 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanoeuluwehianuhea Case	Testifying for Na Wai Hoola nui Laau Lapaau, Truth for the People	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN STRONG OPPOSITION To HB1307 HD2

Relating to DBED and DHHL Bills Supporting Exploratory Drilling and Geothermal Development ON ALL MOKU. HB1307 HD2 Appropriates funds to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands for water well development for geophysical investigation, exploration, and identification of geothermal resources on Hawaiian home lands.

Submitted by: Kanoeuluwehianuhea Case

Position: Strong Opposition to HB1307 HD2

Aloha,

COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Chair Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair Senator Rachele Lamosao

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Chair Senator Glenn Wakai

Chair Senator Stanley Chang

My name is Kanoeuluwehianuhea Case, Co-founder of (Emerging) Na Wai Ho'ola Nui La'au Lapa'au Foundation standing in collaboration with Truth for the People in protection of Aloha 'Āina to protect our "Natural resources" otherwise known to Kanaka as our Na Akua, elemental beings from invasive developments. O Mauna A Wakea no ku'u Mauna, 'O Waimea Moku 'O Keawe mai au.

I submit this testimony in strong opposition to any legislative measure that advances geothermal exploration, exploratory drilling, or geothermal development through the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBED) and/or the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL).

This testimony is offered not only as a political position, but as a statement of lived experience, ancestral responsibility, and lived consequence.

Geothermal Has Already Harmed Our People and ‘Āina

Geothermal development in Hawai‘i is not theoretical. It has a documented history of physical harm, displacement, illness, and desecration — particularly to Kanaka Maoli communities living closest to these projects.

Communities near geothermal operations have experienced:

- Chronic health issues linked to hydrogen sulfide and toxic emissions
- Loss of access to ancestral lands
- Devaluation of homes and forced displacement
- Ongoing psychological stress from living near industrial extraction sites

These harms are not “externalities.” They are borne by our people, while benefits flow elsewhere.

To advance geothermal again — under new language or new agencies — is to ignore lived trauma and repeat known harms.

The involvement of DHHL in geothermal exploration and development is deeply troubling and fundamentally contradictory to its trust responsibility.

DHHL exists to:

- Restore land to Native Hawaiians
- Improve health, stability, and well-being of beneficiaries
- Correct historical injustices, not deepen them

Yet DHHL has proposed or supported geothermal activity in areas such as Humu‘ula, a region of profound cultural, spiritual, and genealogical significance.

Humu‘ula is not an “empty” landscape. It is:

- A sacred cultural region

- A storied ancestral space
- A place of ongoing spiritual practice and relationship

To propose exploratory drilling — which is not benign — in such a place constitutes desecration, regardless of mitigation language or consultation claims.

There is no version of geothermal drilling that is culturally neutral.

—

Exploratory Drilling Is Not Harmless

The framing of “exploratory” geothermal drilling as low-impact is misleading.

Exploration involves:

- Deep drilling into the body of the ‘āina
- Alteration of subsurface systems
- Introduction of industrial infrastructure
- Irreversible disturbance, even if full development does not proceed

For Kanaka Maoli, the ‘āina is a living relative. You do not “test” a living body without consequence.

—

Economic Framing Ignores Cultural Impacts and Harm.

Geothermal is often justified using language of:

- Renewable energy
- Sustainability
- Economic development

But these frameworks exclude cultural and spiritual harm — These cultural impacts are real, cumulative, and intergenerational.

The stress of watching sacred lands threatened, industrialized, or extracted from is not abstract. It manifests as:

- Anxiety, Depression, PTSD and grief
- Community fragmentation
- Loss of trust in institutions and government
- Re-traumatization of people already carrying historical dispossession.

True sustainability cannot come at the cost of continued harm to our people.

—

This Is Not Consent

Consultation does not equal consent.

WE DO NOT CONSENT TO DHHL GEOTHERMAL INITIATIVES

Notice does not equal consent. SCHEDULING BENEFICIARY CONSULTATION MEETINGS AFTER THE INTRODUCTION AND PASSAGE OF BILLS IS A VIOLATION UNDERMINES PROCEDURAL FAIRNESS.

Participation under duress does not equal consent.

Kanaka Maoli opposition to geothermal has been consistent, informed, and rooted in experience. To proceed anyway is consultation becoming a formality rather than a safeguard to protect our assets not exploit us.

—

HB1307 HD2, which appropriates funds to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) for water well development and geophysical investigation, exploration, and identification of geothermal resources on Hawaiian home lands, raises significant legal issues related to the protection of customary and traditional rights, public trust resources, and procedural safeguards under Hawai‘i law. Geothermal exploration and development on DHHL lands can materially affect access to water, land, and cultural sites, triggering obligations under the Hawai‘i Constitution, statutory frameworks, and Hawai‘i Supreme Court precedents. The key legal considerations include:

Key Legal Considerations

- Hawai‘i Constitution – Public Trust & Environmental Protection
- Article XI, § 1: All public natural resources are held in trust for present and future generations and must be conserved and protected.

- Article XII, § 7: The State must reaffirm and protect customary and traditional practices exercised by Native Hawaiian beneficiaries.

- Customary & Traditional Rights Jurisprudence

- Pele Defense Fund v. Paty (1992): Customary rights extend beyond the ahupua‘a of residence; denial of access for subsistence, cultural, or religious practices may be legally challenged.

- Hawai‘i Revised Statutes – Public Trust & Resource Duties

- HRS Chapter 343: Environmental review (EIS/EA) required for projects affecting natural and cultural resources.

- HRS §§ 171 & 205A: Establish public trust duties, land use protections, and require safeguarding resources for beneficiaries.

- Environmental Rights & Planning Laws

- Land use planning statutes require evaluation of ecological, cultural, historic, and open space values before permitting projects that impact public trust resources.

- Procedural & Fiduciary Obligations

- Pre-decisional, meaningful consultation with beneficiaries is legally required.

- Failing to consult before decisions are made risks violating customary rights, trust responsibilities, and may lead to legal challenges.

- Practical Implications for HB1307 HD2

- Geothermal exploration and well development may impact water, land, and cultural sites.

- Without proper consultation and environmental review, beneficiaries’ rights and kuleana to ‘āina may be compromised.

A Call for a Different Path

If the State of Hawai‘i is serious about renewable energy, climate resilience, and justice, then it must:

- Reject geothermal projects that harm Kanaka Maoli and sacred ‘āina
- Remove DHHL from extractive energy development entirely
- Invest in community-led, truly regenerative energy solutions

- Respect cultural landscapes as living systems, not development zones

Energy sovereignty cannot be built on cultural sacrifice.

—

Conclusion

I urge you to oppose any bill that advances geothermal exploration or development through DBED or DHHL.

Our ‘āina is not a commodity.

Our sacred sites are not expendable.

Our people are not collateral damage.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

With respect,

Kanoeuluwehianuhea Case

Lineal Descendant of Moku O Keawe

Co-Founder of Na Wai Ho‘ola Nui La‘au Lapa‘au Foundation with

Co-Founder Kuha‘o Kawaaauhau Case

Co-Collaborator with Truth for the People

HB-1307-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 12:50:06 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Strongly OPPOSE

1307 HB RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS.

POOR INVESTMENT FOR DHHL BENEFICIARIES

THIS IS THE STATE OF HI INITIATIVE AND SHOULD NOT BE DHHL

HB-1307-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 5:08:30 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
TERI SAVAIINAEA	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to HB1307 HD2

Aloha Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

My name is Teri Kia Savaiinaea. I am a Kanaka ‘Ōiwi with over 50% Hawaiian blood quantum and currently on the DHHL waitlist.

I stand in strong opposition to HB1307 HD2.

The Hawaiian Home Lands trust was created to return Native Hawaiians to the land. Yet thousands of us are still waiting. As someone on that waitlist, I take this personally.

While renewable energy has its place, DHHL lands should not be prioritized for geothermal exploration before beneficiaries are placed on those lands.

The priority should be clear:

- * Reduce the waitlist
- * Develop homestead infrastructure
- * Get beneficiaries onto the land

Geothermal development carries long-term impacts to our land and water. We have a responsibility to protect these lands for future generations—not repurpose them before fulfilling the original promise.

We cannot continue to explore new uses for these lands while our people are still waiting for what was promised. Fulfill the promise first.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Teri Kia Savaiinaea

Wai‘anae resident

HB-1307-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 12:00:46 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
C Conda	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Cindy Conda and I am strongly opposed to any more taxpayer money or any money going to explore for more geothermal. I live close to PGV and don't not under how we keep funding a plant that has poisoned its community without any consequences, no sorry, no admission and no monitoring. This is not ok! Shut it down!

mahalo.

HB-1307-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 2:34:24 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dephlia Rackley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN STRONG OPPOSITION To HB1307 HD2

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Submitted by: Dea Rackley and Rocky Ishibashi

Position: Strong Opposition to HB1307 HD2

Aloha,

COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Chair Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III,

Vice Chair Senator Rachele Lamosao

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Chair Senator Glenn Wakai

Chair Senator Stanley Chang

My name is [Your Name]. I submit this testimony in strong opposition to any legislative measure that advances geothermal exploration, exploratory drilling, or geothermal development through the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBED) and/or the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL).

This testimony is offered not only as a political position, but as a statement of lived experience, ancestral responsibility, and lived consequence.

—

Geothermal Has Already Harmed Our People and ‘Āina

Geothermal development in Hawai‘i is not theoretical. It has a documented history of physical harm, displacement, illness, and desecration — particularly to Kanaka Maoli communities living closest to these projects.

Communities near geothermal operations have experienced:

- Chronic health issues linked to hydrogen sulfide and toxic emissions
- Loss of access to ancestral lands
- Devaluation of homes and forced displacement
- Ongoing psychological stress from living near industrial extraction sites

These harms are not “externalities.” They are borne by our people, while benefits flow elsewhere.

To advance geothermal again — under new language or new agencies — is to ignore lived trauma and repeat known harms.

—

DHHL’s Role Is Especially Troubling

The involvement of DHHL in geothermal exploration and development is deeply troubling and fundamentally contradictory to its trust responsibility.

DHHL exists to:

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Kanaka Maoli opposition to geothermal has been consistent, informed, and rooted in experience. To proceed anyway is consultation becoming a formality rather than a safeguard to protect our assets not exploit us.

HB1307 HD2, which appropriates funds to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) for water well development and geophysical investigation, exploration, and identification of geothermal resources on Hawaiian home lands, raises significant legal issues related to the protection of customary and traditional rights, public trust resources, and procedural safeguards under Hawai‘i law. Geothermal exploration and development on DHHL lands can materially affect access to water, land, and cultural sites, triggering obligations under the Hawai‘i Constitution, statutory frameworks, and Hawai‘i Supreme Court precedents. The key legal considerations include:

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 - Practical Implications for HB1307 HD2
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A Call for a Different Path

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- Remove DHHL from extractive energy development entirely
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- Respect cultural landscapes as living systems, not development zones

Energy sovereignty cannot be built on cultural sacrifice.

—

Conclusion

I urge you to oppose any bill that advances geothermal exploration or development through DBED or DHHL.

Our 'āina is not a commodity.

Our sacred sites are not expendable.

Our people are not collateral damage.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Respectfully,

Dea Rackley and Rocky Ishibashi

HB-1307-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 4:18:22 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dana Keawe	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN STRONG OPPOSITION To HB1307 HD2
Relating to DBED and DHHL Bills Supporting Exploratory Drilling and Geothermal Development ON ALL MOKU. HB1307 HD2 Appropriates funds to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands for water well development for geophysical investigation, exploration, and identification of geothermal resources on Hawaiian home lands.

Submitted by: Dana Keawe
Position: Strong Opposition to HB1307 HD2

Aloha,
COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Chair Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III,
Vice Chair Senator Rachele Lamosao
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
Chair Senator Glenn Wakai
Chair Senator Stanley Chang

My name is Dana Keawe. I submit this testimony in strong opposition to any legislative measure that advances geothermal exploration, exploratory drilling, or geothermal development through the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBED) and/or the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL).
This testimony is offered not only as a political position, but as a statement of lived experience, ancestral responsibility, and lived consequence.

—
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-DHHL’s Role Is Especially Troubling

The involvement of DHHL in geothermal exploration and development is deeply troubling and fundamentally contradictory to its trust responsibility.

DHHL exists to:

- Restore land to Native Hawaiians
- Improve health, stability, and well-being of beneficiaries
- Correct historical injustices, not deepen them

Yet DHHL has proposed or supported geothermal activity in areas such as Humu‘ula, a region of profound cultural, spiritual, and genealogical significance.

Humu‘ula is not an “empty” landscape. It is:

- A sacred cultural region
- A storied ancestral space
- A place of ongoing spiritual practice and relationship

To propose exploratory drilling — which is not benign — in such a place constitutes desecration, regardless of mitigation language or consultation claims.

There is no version of geothermal drilling that is culturally neutral.

-Exploratory Drilling Is Not Harmless

The framing of “exploratory” geothermal drilling as low-impact is misleading.

Exploration involves:

- Deep drilling into the body of the ‘āina
- Alteration of subsurface systems
- Introduction of industrial infrastructure
- Irreversible disturbance, even if full development does not proceed

For Kānaka Maoli, the ‘āina is a living relative. You do not “test” a living body without consequence.

-Economic Framing Ignores Cultural Impacts and Harm.

Geothermal is often justified using language of:

- Renewable energy
- Sustainability
- Economic development

But these frameworks exclude cultural and spiritual harm — These cultural impacts are real, cumulative, and intergenerational.

The stress of watching sacred lands threatened, industrialized, or extracted from is not abstract. It manifests as:

- Anxiety, Depression, PTSD and grief
- Community fragmentation
- Loss of trust in institutions and government
- Re-traumatization of people already carrying historical dispossession.

True sustainability cannot come at the cost of continued harm to our people.

-This Is Not Consent

Consultation does not equal consent.

WE DO NOT CONSENT TO DHHL GEOTHERMAL INITIATIVES

Notice does not equal consent. SCHEDULING BENEFICIARY CONSULTATION MEETINGS AFTER THE INTRODUCTION AND PASSAGE OF BILLS IS A VIOLATION UNDERMINES PROCEDURAL FAIRNESS.

Participation under duress does not equal consent.

Kanaka Maoli opposition to geothermal has been consistent, informed, and rooted in experience. To proceed anyway is consultation becoming a formality rather than a safeguard to protect our assets not exploit us.

-HB1307 HD2, which appropriates funds to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) for water well development and geophysical investigation, exploration, and identification of geothermal resources on Hawaiian home lands, raises significant legal issues related to the protection of customary and traditional rights, public trust resources, and procedural safeguards under Hawai‘i law. Geothermal exploration and development on DHHL lands can materially affect access to water, land, and cultural sites, triggering obligations under the Hawai‘i Constitution, statutory frameworks, and Hawai‘i Supreme Court precedents. The key legal considerations include:

Key Legal Considerations

- Hawai‘i Constitution – Public Trust & Environmental Protection
- Article XI, § 1: All public natural resources are held in trust for present and future generations and must be conserved and protected.
 - Article XII, § 7: The State must reaffirm and protect customary and traditional practices exercised by Native Hawaiian beneficiaries.
 - Customary & Traditional Rights Jurisprudence
 - Pele Defense Fund v. Paty (1992): Customary rights extend beyond the ahupua‘a of residence; denial of access for subsistence, cultural, or religious practices may be legally challenged.
- Hawai‘i Revised Statutes – Public Trust & Resource Duties
- HRS Chapter 343: Environmental review (EIS/EA) required for projects affecting natural and cultural resources.
 - HRS §§ 171 & 205A: Establish public trust duties, land use protections, and require safeguarding resources for beneficiaries.
 - Environmental Rights & Planning Laws
 - Land use planning statutes require evaluation of ecological, cultural, historic, and open space values before permitting projects that impact public trust resources.
 - Procedural & Fiduciary Obligations
 - Pre-decisional, meaningful consultation with beneficiaries is legally required.
- Failing to consult before decisions are made risks violating customary rights, trust responsibilities, and may lead to legal challenges.
 - Practical Implications for HB1307 HD2
 - Geothermal exploration and well development may impact water, land, and cultural sites.
 - Without proper consultation and environmental review, beneficiaries’ rights and kuleana to ‘āina may be compromised.

-A Call for a Different Path

If the State of Hawai'i is serious about renewable energy, climate resilience, and justice, then it must:

- Reject geothermal projects that harm Kanaka Maoli and sacred 'āina
- Remove DHHL from extractive energy development entirely
- Invest in community-led, truly regenerative energy solutions
- Respect cultural landscapes as living systems, not development zones

Energy sovereignty cannot be built on cultural sacrifice.

-Conclusion

I urge you to oppose any bill that advances geothermal exploration or development through DBED or DHHL.

Our 'āina is not a commodity.

Our sacred sites are not expendable.

Our people are not collateral damage.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Respectfully,

Dana Keawe

Truth for the People

HB-1307-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 6:35:25 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl burghardt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB 1307 HD2. Enough is enough. We don't need to explore anything. We already know the issues with Geothermal.

Cheryl Burghardt

Nuuanu Oahu

HB-1307-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 11:25:12 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Blaine De Ramos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1307

SARA STEINER
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pahoatoday@gmail.com
808-936-9546

March 24, 2026

COMMITTEES ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS, ENERGY & INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

RE: OPPOSE HB1307 HD 2
Relating to Geothermal on Hawaiian Home Lands

Aloha HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS AND ENERGY & INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS:

Several years ago the Leg gave a couple million dollars for outreach for geothermal development on Hawaiian Home Lands. You should require an audit of that money and see exactly what happened at those community meetings. They were unprofessional shouting matches where we were not allowed to tell the meeting attendees what harms we have suffered over the decades. After several public meetings, Waika changed to online Zoom meetings where they controlled the access and the questions.

For example, there was not one discussion of how deadly Hydrogen Sulfide is and how it is many times stronger here in Hawaii than the rest of the world's geothermal plants. There was no discussion of how the Puna community has been gassed repeatedly over the decades, leading to deaths and lawsuits galore.

In their public forums, Waika Consulting did not disclose that geothermal plants cause earthquakes from their withdrawal and reinjection of fluids under pressure. This is a world-wide problem that geothermal plants struggle to control by using seismic monitoring and other protocols such as rules where not to site geothermal plants, areas of high natural seismicity, large historical earthquakes, large faults in the area, and we also have the Hilina Slump in Puna/Kau District that was not even mentioned in Puna Geothermal Venture's 2024 Environmental Impact Statement, leading to a lawsuit still at Intermediate Court.

Waika's Power 4The People online formats also do not disclose the subsidence problems that are known to geothermal operations all over the world. Also, water pollution, problems all over the world where geothermal operations fracture ground and chemicals travel for miles not just in closed loop reservoirs, which PGV was already found by USGS to be injecting Pentane and Isoproponal into their wells. Not Pono, and nothing has ever happened.

The University of Hawaii has had a Geothermal Program since the 1980s, yet they don't have any research on the negative impacts of Puna Geothermal Venture. The USGS has no working seismometers in the vicinity of PGV and nobody monitors the earthquake or subsidence caused by PGV because PGV doesn't allow anyone on their property to study them. They also don't

make their proprietary seismic data available to UH or USGS... Why? What are they afraid of? If they don't impact the underground, then why can't we see the data???

So far, Hawaii's policy about negative geothermal impacts has been: Don't require monitoring of PGV's use of State Land so there is no "record" of it, and to minimize the decades of injustice by IGNORING US and demonizing the Puna residents who have been harmed for decades as just being "anti-geothermal".

I have attached a copy of the Reply Brief for a rulemaking lawsuit I had Petitioned the Health Department Clean Water Branch to make rules where to site geothermal plants where they don't impact residents or volcanoes or water. The Health Department denied my Petition so I will be giving oral arguments on April 15 @ 9:30 am in Environmental Court of the Third Circuit.

The Reply Brief lays out what the State has to do BEFORE they issue permits to cause anymore harm to the residents and environment, including Hawaiian Home Lands. Because here in Hawaii, in the year 2026, the Legislature will put the health and safety of Hawaiians and other residents FIRST over unproven, unstable, easily-knocked-offline geothermal power.

Because as we speak, I am of the informed belief that PGV is having to burn diesel in their 3 large backup generators to supply any electricity to HELCO. Their wells are failing because you shouldn't ever build a geothermal plant in a destabilized rift zone, it just grinds their wells to smithereens!!! PGV has no County of Hawaii Permits for their Power Plants ever, not in 1993, not in 2009 and not currently. They also got busted operating their newest injection well, KS-21 for 2 ½ years before the State even noticed they were using it...???

Why don't you audit the money already spent and see exactly how it isn't worth throwing away anymore tax dollars at the geothermal dinosaur. Ask the Attorney General, their office spent more on defending lawsuits over PGV and the State Health Department in the last 5 years than most any other problem...

The State is obliged to monitor the use of State Land, which is "geothermal resource" and according to Case v Ching (2019) the State owes the duty to the people, and it doesn't matter who the third party user of the land is, the State still has the duty to Monitor It!!! That means Hydrogen Sulfide, Seismicity and Subsidence AT The Source!!! and data published REALTIME so the entire world can see what is going on under and around PGV!!!

Sara Steiner

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Self-represented Appellant

Electronically Filed
THIRD CIRCUIT
3CCV-25-0000467
11-MAR-2026
04:25 PM
Dkt. 34 RB

ENVIRONMENTAL COURT OF THE THIRD CIRCUIT

STATE OF HAWAII

SARA STEINER,

Petitioner/Appellant

v.

STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH CLEAN WATER BRANCH
UNDERGROUND INJECTION CONTROL,
Respondent/Appellee

CIVIL NO: 3CCV-25-0000467
(Agency Appeal)

NOTICE OF APPEAL FROM DENIAL OF
RULEMAKING PETITION TO STATE OF
HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
CLEAN WATER BRANCH
UNDERGROUND INJECTION CONTROL
SIGNED BY DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
KENNETH S. FINK ON 10/14/2025;
EXHIBITS "1-2"; CERTIFICATE OF
SERVICE

REPLY BRIEF OF THE APPELLANT

JEFS electronic service provided for all parties on day of filing.



REPLY BRIEF OF THE APPELLANT

I believe the State of Hawaii is not acting in good faith pursuant to HAPA. The State's Answering Brief, page 8 Introduction opens with **“The Legislature granted the public the opportunity to share their ideas for administrative rules with agencies under chapter 91... HAPA gives the public a way to propose wording of administrative rules directly through a petition for rulemaking...”(emphasis added)**. In this instant matter, I am a “member of the public” and I “shared my ideas for administrative rules” via chapter 91!

The State seems confused if I am appealing the denial of my petition or the denial of the reconsideration [AB 8]. I'm positive I said I am appealing both denials because I am contending the Health Department's Rulemaking laws (HRS§ 91-3, 91-6) and the Health Department's rulemaking rules HAR §11-1-51 are UNCONSTITUTIONAL because they do not provide due process to this Petitioner whose proposed rules actually did meet the exact spirit and letter of HAR § 11-1-51, including the designation of affected statutes and wording of proposed definitions and proposed rules laid out at (b)(4).

The State of Hawaii fails to mention that their rulemaking rules come with a mandatory “public hearing” and plenty opportunity for the public and other agencies to submit their own comments or versions of the rules pursuant to HAR § 11-1-53. *Perhaps the rulemaking rules relating to appeals and reconsiderations were never finished, because there is a HAR § 11-1-54 and 55, which were left blank for future rules.* I believe because of the mandatory hearing called for in HAR 11-1-53, that “HAPA” or HRS § 91-14 can apply to agency rulemaking appeals and I am pretty sure that is how the other Hawaii rulemaking caselaw I cited survived standing arguments and made it to the higher courts.

The State throws it out that I “should just file another Petition, and I can do so at any

time” [AB 8]. Why would I waste time filing another petition when they can’t be bothered to send me an email and say, “hey Sara, your rules are kind of wordy” (or whatever their real problem is) and give me a way to rectify it... Instead of communicating with me, they just dismissed it with no cause shown and I have a right to be shown the cause my petition was dismissed SO I CAN RECTIFY IT!

The Fact is that State of Hawaii filed a 22-page Answering Brief that does not discuss how my proposed rules did not meet the spirit and letter of the unambiguous wording of that rule. Instead, the State claims on page 9 of their AB that Director Fink “denied the petition as it failed to meet the requirement of [HAR] §11-1-51(b)(4) which provides that “[t]he petition shall include (4) The text of the proposed rule...” The State says instead of the proposed rules I included a “lengthy discussion regarding seismic monitoring and geothermal energy” and then go on to say, “Director Fink’s letter informed Appellant that based on her failure to include text of the proposed rules, her Petition was dismissed pursuant to HAR §11-1-51(d)”.

Your Honor, *that is not true the State made that up!* The Order clearly states “The Petition’s **description of what the DOH should prepare** does not meet the letter nor the spirit of the unambiguous wording of that rule” (**emphasis added**). I am contending the text of my proposed rules, clearly labeled “TEXT OF THE PROPOSED RULE” on pages 9 – 13 of Petition [ROA pg 11-15] exactly met the legal definitions of spirit and intent of the rule and I also met the Black’s definition of proposed rules in my Opening Brief. Here, again, my petition complied with every requirement of. HAR § 11-1-51(b): The Petition was filed in Writing per section (b) [ROA -] and included my name, address and phone number pursuant to (b)(1) [ROA -]. I signed the Petition according to Section (b)(2) and I gave statements of reasons in support of the proposed rule (b)(3) *and* I attached Text of my Proposed Rules according to (b)(4) as well as

giving a Statement of reasons in support of the proposed rule (b)(5) and Other relevant information at (b)(6).

Regarding Jurisdictional Standards and Judicial Review of Administrative Decisions; I am not an attorney, so while I may be confused on jurisdiction issues, it appears the State is just as confused as me in their arguments. Therefore, I trust the Environmental Court will give deference to the environment as they rule on this case. To the best of my ability, I cited Hawaii rulemaking cases such as Costa v Sunn and Rowley because they were rulemaking cases discussing contents of proposed rules and how the State FAILED to follow their own rules and the cases were remanded to do a better job. Yes, I sincerely believe arbitrary denials without proof are able to be appealed according to HRS § 91-14.

The State is Correct; there is No Deference owed the Agency. This Petitioner has met the heavy burden of proof that the Director's Order was unjust and unreasonable and therefore, invalid [AB 11]. **The clearly erroneous test is for the EC to determine whether my proposed rules met the spirit and letter of HAR § 11-1-51(d)(4). I certainly did meet that proof, and the Court should be feeling that a firm and definite conviction that a mistake has been made.**

Regarding the Environmental Court giving deference to the State of Hawaii Department of Health Clean Water Branch acting in their "sphere of expertise" [AB 11] I am contending the State has NO GREAT EXPERTISE IN GEOTHERMAL MONITORING, REGULATION OR ADMINISTRATION and therefore should not be afforded blank deference. I see the DOH's Underground Injection Control rules are archaic from when they set up the initial program; dated 1984 and updated one time in 1992 (i.e: HAR § 11-23-9 and 12. Application procedures for UIC permits). I know currently the State is lagging far behind their counterparts in the mainland, that

is why I tried to get the State involved to make rules now so we can get some new technology involved in monitoring the State Land they are liable to the residents of Hawaii to maintain.

The State's AB page 12 states if this case is remanded "to consider the Reconsideration" which would "then be denied again because I didn't provide my "text of the proposed rule"", where my rules were absolutely titled and contained in the Petition at ROA 11-15. **This is another outright LIE and there should be sanctions for LYING!!!** My Appeal asks for the Petition to be remanded back to the Health Department to begin making rules, not to waste any more time ping-ponging the Reconsideration issue, besides finding the fact it is another abuse of discretion and UNCONSTITUTIONAL lack of due process!

On page 14, the State says "DOH has discretion to decide whether to consider Appellant's Petition, and HAR § 11-1-51(4)(d) requires ""the text of the proposed rule or amendment." The State then claims Appellant's Petition did not include the text of the proposed rule or amendment, ROA at SS00009-000018."" **Your Honor they LIE AGAIN!!!** The State perjures themselves three times with outright LIE to the Honorable Environmental Court and saying I did not attach a copy of my proposed rules when they were there the entire time. I did include the text of my proposed rules, and I am getting frustrated and disgusted responding to the Answering Brief, and I ask for sanctions: the Environmental Court should ORDER the State to ANSWER the allegations in my Appeal!!! Have the Health Department explain to Petitioner and this Honorable Court in Plain English how exactly my rules were attached to the Petition and then explain exactly how they don't meet the letter and spirit of the law. Justice deserves no less!!!

The State AB page 15 says the dismissal of the Petition did not adjudicate any specific rights, make any findings of fact or conclusions of law so therefore it doesn't fall under

“contested case”. Well, that Order Denying my Petition adjudicated my right to have rules made to protect residents and environment from geothermal impacts, it said “NO WAY SARA”. So, whether Order that is a “finding of fact” or a “conclusion of law” or just an “explanation of why you ruled the way you did,” the issue in front of the Court is: What is the spirit and letter of HAR § 11-1-51(d)(4) and did Petitioner’s “proposed rules” meet the spirit and letter of the rule?

Does the Environmental Court have jurisdiction to review the Petition and Order to determine whether my right to have rulemaking terminated for proof? I say YES, they do and it is according to HRS § 91-14 as in Judge Nakamoto’s briefing order [Dkt 22 NTCE 5.DEC.2025].

The State claims *Aulii v Lewin* does not apply to this case [AB 18] and there is no “permit” at issue here. Actually, as discussed in my Petition, the rulemaking is very timely as the Hawaii State Legislature is currently contemplating no less than 16 Geothermal Bills this 2026 session, including “permitting” any number of exploration activities relating to geothermal while requesting to expressly bypass environmental assessments in most of them (*attached as Exhibit “1” and available at: <https://search.capitol.hawaii.gov/?q=geothermal&type=measures>*)

I know and am informing this Honorable Environmental Court that the State of Hawaii Clean Water Branch Underground Injection Control program issues permits to PGV, who was just busted in 2025 for using their newest well, KS-21, *without obtaining a State of Hawaii UIC permit*. If I made a UIPA request today, I probably would find an application for another injection well for PGV either exists already or is being prepared to be filed at any time. So yes, there is or will soon be a permit, but why would I bother demanding a “contested case” when I have already filed to make rules about where to locate and how to monitor negative effects at the source for all geothermal plants, including the one we already have that is not monitored, rulemaking is what *Aulii* calls for not contested cases!!!

Also in this case, which is precedent, the State seems to have a problem with me using the term “interested person” and they don’t know why I am using it because the October 14 dismissal does not refer to “interested person” [AB 19]. I used the term because it shows to this Honorable Court that anyone interested in the issue, including myself, a member of the general public not working for the state agency (a person the Legislature created the rulemaking rules for) could file a rulemaking petition by following the rules and I got the term “interested person” from HRS § 91-6 and also HAR § 11-1-51. Again, the State’s opening remark in their Answering Brief was to confirm that the Hawaii Legislature envisioned regular folks becoming involved in important issues that concern them and offer the opportunity to make rules, so yes, they are going to get any number of personal opinions from the number of persons submitting them. The State’s job is to distill all the comments down to meaningful rules.

I also never asserted any request for emergency rulemaking in my Opening Brief. I showed the Court that there is an emergency rulemaking option, unfortunately, the State doesn’t think it’s an emergency. They sit on their okoles over there in Oahu hundreds of miles away – me over here in Puna on an active volcano that is being pressurized by millions of gallons a day of highly acidic effluents with added chemicals injected under pressure approved by the State of Hawaii “Clean Water” Branch 24/7/365 – yet nobody is monitoring the underground fractures – except supposedly PGV themselves as proprietary information . How does the State protect the State resource? Currently, they let PGV “self-regulate” and operate without meaningful permits or rules or laws and that is going to change!!! We have the technology to source monitor and provide the details to the public real-time and the rules just need to be made!

Of course, the DOH does not address the merits of my petition which are made expressly to promote safety in geothermal operations [AB 20]. This rulemaking Petition is timely and

necessary as the Kilauea Volcano is very active and the Maunaloa Volcano is showing unrest as well¹ exactly in the Southwest Rift Zone one of the Hawaiian Home Lands areas the State is pushing for geothermal. *Case v Ching* says the State needs to monitor the use of “State Land” at Pohakuloa even if it is used by the Federal Military, the State is the one with the duty to monitor.

Puna Geothermal Venture uses State land (geothermal resource it pays royalties for) and we know PGV causes earthquakes and subsidence and also is located in a residential zone and has subjected the residents to untold gassings and emergencies. They are “untold” because there is NO MONITORING so there is NO PROOF that PGV impacts the humans and environment, so it is time for rulemaking NOW, not after the Legislature passes acts that try and limit environmental review and fast track drilling in sensitive areas and commit untold millions of dollars of taxpayer money to remove the risks involved for the wealthy toxic polluting industry.

I did not file a Petition to decide the rights for the “individual” Sara Steiner, I filed that Petition because there are Constitutional Rights for Residents of the Entire Island of Hawaii, including Hawaiians on Hawaiian Homelands, to breathe clean air and be free from intentional pollution and intentional earthquake and subsidence harm such as that caused by geothermal operations all over the world.

Again, both 91-3 and 11-1-51 allow for “interested persons” to submit proposed rules. We must start somewhere and excuse me that my proposed rules absolutely reflect the last 35 years of negative experiences and newly discovered evidence after the 2018 eruption of negative underground impacts from Puna Geothermal Venture BECAUSE THEY ARE PROBLEMS THAT NEED RULES MADE BEFORE PERMITTING ANYMORE GEOTHERMAL.

¹ <https://www.bigislandvideonews.com/2026/02/28/volcano-watch-scientists-detect-changes-in-maunaloa-inflation-pattern/>

Whether the comments are testimony taken are under oath and subject to cross examination (contested case) or public comments and documents in a rulemaking public hearing, they are conducted pursuant to HAPA and I still have a right to appeal blatantly WRONG Orders!

It isn't like I am lying about the need for rules, and I clearly attached my proposed rules to be subject to vetting by the plethora of government agencies with their fingers in the geothermal permitting mess. I am trying to simplify things and protect the residents and environment from toxic polluters as well as "facilitate the "conduct of [DOH] business, and I am not talking about business as usual, I am talking about meaningful rules to protect life and water and aina, not enabling any more for-profiters looking to suck off the Hawaii taxpayer tits!

WOW, Your Honor, on page 18, the State FINALLY ADMITS I filed proposed "definitions" but they claim the examples are "my own views and opinions". Your Honor, I clearly attached supporting exhibits authored by scientists and geothermal industry that show negative impacts of geothermal in Hawaii. That isn't just "my wishes or my own views or opinions". I have shown geothermal plants present a "clear and present DANGER" that the State of Hawaii needs to make rules for before permitting any more of them. If my proposed rules have a bent on my wishes, well I had to start somewhere!! I am not an attorney. Hello, that is what the rulemaking procedure is for - to hold public hearing and notify the public about the proposed rules to they can input their views as well as the agencies!

Baker v Young is a case over statutory interpretation of plain language. Here there is no ambiguity in the Rulemaking Rule or my "proposed rules:" submitted with the Petition. The ambiguity exists in the Denial Letter which does not discuss the errors in my proposed rules so they can be corrected.

The State says Aulii v Lewin does not apply to this case, that there is no permit at issue [AB 18]. I clearly stated in my Petition that the rulemaking was to begin immediately because the State is in the process of funding geothermal exploration and we need rules for siting and seismic and subsidence monitoring of the existing geothermal plant. I am certain Aulii is perfectly on topic, because as we speak, I bet PGV either has an application before the State of Hawaii Clean Water Branch for its next injection well or if they don't have one yet, they will soon as their electric production has dropped since they were having trouble with their newest UIC well, KS-21.

I found out PGV operated that well for over 2 years *without a DOH UIC permit* until the State even noticed in February 2025. I don't know why it took over 2 years for the State to figure out about the well usage as PGV supposedly files monthly reports with the State. I guess nobody at CWB looks at those, but once they did, they told PGV to shut down the well immediately. Instead of shutting it down, PGV operated it for another 2 ½ months, until April 2025 before shutting it down. Did PGV get any sanctions? UIPA wants me to pay \$60 to find out and I am low-income and can't afford it.

Anyway, since the State brought up the fact that we need a permit, I can assure you we have one now or will have a State of Hawaii Department of Health Clean Water Branch Underground Injection Control permit for PGV's next injection well, and then according to the State, we can demand a contested case. But why would we do that, here is where Aulii is perfect and that is why I demanded the rulemaking instead of piecemeal contested case which could contain demands for seismic and subsidence monitoring for PGV but will mean nothing for the other geothermal plants to come.

Industry-wide safety rules need to be made now, not after permits are granted. The Siting requirements are necessary to prevent future disasters to other communities as the community surrounding PGV has experienced for decades with no meaningful emergency notification, responses, or monitoring of hazards so there is no record of harm.

For the reasons stated above, this case needs to be remanded back to the Health Department as Petitioner clearly shown this Environmental Court that she attached the Text of the Proposed Rules to her Petition which clearly met letter and spirit of HAR § 11-1-51(b)(4).

DATED: Pahoia, Hawaii, March 11, 2026.

/s/ Sara Steiner
Sara Steiner, *self-represented*
Petitioner/Appellant



Measures

Search Query: "geothermal"

Found 16 results in Measures

- DC21** 2026
Title: From the Department of Land and Natural Resources, dated November 14, 2025, transmitting the **Geothermal** Royalties Dispositions and Status of **Geothermal** and Cable System Development Fiscal Year 2025 report pursuant to Sections 182-18 and 196D-11, HRS.
Report Title: Rpt; **Geothermal** Royalties Dispositions and Status of **Geothermal** and Cable System Development Fiscal Year 2025 Report; DLNR

Current Status: Filed.
(2026-01-21)

(https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=DC&billnumber=21&year=2026)
- HB1020 HD1 SD2** 2026
Title: RELATING TO A PROGRAM TO CHARACTERIZE CARBON SEQUESTRATION POTENTIAL AND UNDERGROUND WATER RESOURCES STATEWIDE.
Description: Establishes a Carbon Sequestration, Underground Water, and **Geothermal** Exploration Resource Characterization Program via slim hole bores and requires a related statewide environmental assessment. Requires a report to the Legislature. Establishes positions. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/3000. (SD2)
Report Title: Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; Carbon Sequestration; Water Resources; **Geothermal** Exploration; Report; Positions; Appropriations

Introduced by: NAKAMURA (Introduced by request of another party)
Companion: SB1339
Current Referral: EIG/AEN, WAM

Current Status: Conference Committee Meeting will reconvene on Friday, 04-25-25 at 5:55PM in Conference Room 325.
(2025-04-25)

(https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=HB&billnumber=1020&year=2026)



Title: RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS.

Description: Appropriates funds to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands for water well development for geophysical investigation, exploration, and identification of **geothermal** resources on Hawaiian home lands. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD2)

Report Title: DHHL; Hawaiian Home Lands; **Geothermal** Resources; Appropriation

Introduced by: HOLT, EVSLIN, KAHALOA, KUSCH, LAMOSAO, LEE, M., LOWEN, MARTEN, MATAYOSHI, MIYAKE, SOUZA, TARNAS, Kila

Current Referral: HWN/EIG, WAM

Current Status: Referred to HWN/EIG, WAM.
(2025-03-04)

(https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=HB&billnumber=1307&year=2026)

4. **HB1403**

2026

Title: RELATING TO **GEOTHERMAL** ENERGY EXPLORATION.

Description: Appropriates funds to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism for the exploration and identification of **geothermal** resources on Hawaii island.

Report Title: DBEDT; **Geothermal** Energy; Hawaii Island; Exploration; Identification; Appropriation

Introduced by: LOWEN (Introduced by request of another party).

Current Referral: EEP, ECD, FIN

Current Status: Referred to EEP, ECD, FIN, referral sheet 4
(2025-01-27)

(https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=HB&billnumber=1403&year=2026)

5. **HB1981 HD1**

2026

Title: RELATING TO A PROGRAM TO CHARACTERIZE CARBON SEQUESTRATION POTENTIAL AND **GEOTHERMAL** AND UNDERGROUND WATER RESOURCES STATEWIDE.

Description: Establishes a **Geothermal** Carbon Sequestration, and Underground Water Resource Characterization Program via slim hole bores and a related statewide environmental assessment. Appropriates funds for the program. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

Report Title: Hawaii State Energy Office; Carbon Sequestration; Water Resources; **Geothermal** Exploration; Appropriations

Introduced by: LOWEN, EVSLIN, ILAGAN, KAPELA, KEOHOKAPU-LEE LOY, KUSCH, MARTEN, MATAYOSHI, OLDS, TARNAS, TEMPLO, WOODSON

Current Referral: EEP, FIN

Current Status: Passed Second Reading as amended in HD 1 and referred to the committee(s) on FIN with none voting aye with reservations; Representative(s) Pierick voting no (1) and Representative(s) Cochran, Lee, M., Poepoe excused (3).
(2026-02-17)

(https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=HB&billnumber=1981&year=2026)

6. **HB1982 HD2**

2026

Title: RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS.

Description: Appropriates funds to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands for certain **geothermal** resource exploration and development activities and the hiring of consultants. Requires the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to engage in consultation with beneficiaries of Hawaiian home lands regarding activities funded and to comply with the environmental impact statements law. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD2).

Report Title: DHHL; Hawaiian Home Lands; **Geothermal** Resources; Beneficiary Consultation; Environmental Impact Statements; Appropriation

Introduced by: LOWEN, EVSLIN, HOLT, ILAGAN, KEOHOKAPU-LEE LOY, KUSCH, LA CHICA, LEE, M., MARTEN, MATAYOSHI, MIYAKE, MORIKAWA, OLDS, QUINLAN, TAKAYAMA, TAKENOUCI, TAM, TARNAS, TEMPLO, WOODSON, Kila

Current Referral: EEP, JHA, FIN

Current Status: Report adopted; referred to the committee(s) on FIN as amended in HD 2 with Representative(s) Alcos, Amato, Gedeon, Matsumoto, Perruso, Reyes Oda, Shimizu voting aye with reservations; Representative(s) Cochran, Garcia, Muraoka, Pierick, Poepoe voting no (5) and none excused (0).
(2026-02-18)

https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=HB&billnumber=1982&year=2026

7. **HB1983**

2026

Title: RELATING TO NATURAL RESOURCES.

Description: Authorizes geological subsurface characterization activities conducted by a public research institution under certain conditions. Clarifies that boreholes or test holes drilled for the purposes of geological subsurface characterization are distinct from water well exploration and **geothermal** or mineral exploration. Requires the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, to designate the Hawaii Groundwater and **Geothermal** Resources Center of the University of Hawaii, or a successor entity, as the repository for data collected from any geological subsurface characterization activity. Requires the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to designate a repository or be the repository for any scientific data collected from any geological subsurface characterization activity on lands it holds in trust. Requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources to amend its exemption list to specify that certain geological subsurface characterization activities shall be exempt from the environmental review process or shall only require an exemption notice. Requires the University of Hawaii to amend its exemption list to specify that certain geological subsurface characterization activities shall be exempt from the environmental review process or shall only require an exemption notice. Requires the Department of Health to amend its rules related to hazardous waste and hazardous waste management for consistency with federal regulations to specify that certain waste products generated by geological subsurface characterization activity are exempt from hazardous waste management requirements. Requires that the first site where a borehole or test hole is drilled shall be on lands owned by DHHL. Establishes the Hawaii Groundwater and **Geothermal** Resources Center within the School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology of UH Manoa. Appropriates funds.

Report Title: DBEDT; DLNR; DOH; DHHL; UH; SOEST; HGGRC; Geological Subsurface Characterization; Natural Resources; Groundwater; **Geothermal** Resources; Hazardous Waste; Exemptions; Administrative Rules; Appropriations

Introduced by: LOWEN

Companion: SB2901

Current Referral: EEP, JHA, FIN

Current Status: The committee(s) on EEP recommend(s) that the measure be deferred.
(2026-02-11)

https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=HB&billnumber=1983&year=2026

8. **HB2262**

2026

Title: RELATING TO A PROGRAM TO CHARACTERIZE THE POTENTIAL OF UNDERGROUND ENERGY RESOURCES STATEWIDE.

Description: Establishes the Underground Energy Resource Characterization Program to identify the location and characteristics of underground energy resources through the use of slim-hole bores and requires a related environmental assessment or environmental impact statement. Requires a report to the legislature. Appropriates funds.

Report Title: Hawaii State Energy Office; Water Resources; **Geothermal** Exploration; University of Hawaii; Appropriation

Introduced by: NAKAMURA (Introduced by request of another party).

Companion: SB3081

Current Referral: EEP, WAL, FIN

Current Status: Referred to EEP, WAL, FIN, referral sheet 5
(2026-01-30)

(https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=HB&billnumber=2262&year=2026)

9. **SB1269 SD1 HD2**

2026

Title: RELATING TO **GEOTHERMAL** RESOURCES.

Description: Appropriates funds to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism for continued exploration and identification of **geothermal** resources and commercial viability for utility-scale **geothermal** production in counties with a population of less than 300,000, with certain limitations. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD2).

Report Title: DBEDT; **Geothermal** Resources; Appropriation

Introduced by: INOUYE

Current Referral: EEP/ECD, CPC, FIN

Current Status: Received notice of Senate conferees (Sen. Com. No. 851).
(2025-04-21)

(https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=SB&billnumber=1269&year=2026)

10. **SB1339 SD1**

2026

Title: RELATING TO A PROGRAM TO CHARACTERIZE CARBON SEQUESTRATION POTENTIAL AND UNDERGROUND WATER RESOURCES STATEWIDE.

Description: Establishes a statewide underground water and carbon sequestration resource characterization program via slim hole bores and a related statewide environmental assessment. Effective 5/13/2040. (SD1)

Report Title: Hawaii State Energy Office; Carbon Sequestration; Water Resources; **Geothermal** Exploration; Appropriations

Introduced by: KOUCHI (Introduced by request of another party).

Companion: HB1020

Current Referral: EIG/AEN, WAM

Current Status: Report adopted; Passed Second Reading, as amended (SD 1) and referred to WAM.
(2025-02-11)

(https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=SB&billnumber=1339&year=2026)

11.

SB151 SD1

2026

Title: RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS.

Description: Establishes a permitted interaction group within the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. Appropriates funds to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to continue geophysical data collection, investigation, exploration, and identification of **geothermal** resources on Hawaiian home lands. Authorizes DHHL to hire consultants. Effective 7/31/2050. (SD1).

Report Title: DHHL; **Geothermal** Resources; Permitted Interaction Group; Appropriations

Introduced by: KEOHOKALOLE, CHANG, HASHIMOTO, KANUHA, Moriwaki

Current Referral: HWN/EIG, WAM

Current Status: Report adopted; Passed Second Reading, as amended (SD 1) and referred to WAM.
(2025-02-11)

(https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=SB&billnumber=151&year=2026)

12.

SB2636

2026

Title: RELATING TO **GEOTHERMAL** ENERGY.

Description: Short form bill.

Report Title: Short Form; **Geothermal** Energy.

Introduced by: KANUHA

Current Referral: HWN

Current Status: Referred to HWN.
(2026-01-28)

(https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=SB&billnumber=2636&year=2026)

13.

SB2901

2026

Title: RELATING TO NATURAL RESOURCES.

Description: Authorizes geological subsurface characterization activities conducted by a public research institution under certain conditions. Clarifies that boreholes or test holes drilled for the purposes of geological subsurface characterization are distinct from water well exploration and **geothermal** or mineral exploration. Requires the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, to designate the Hawaii Groundwater and **Geothermal** Resources Center of the University of Hawaii, or a successor entity, as the repository for data collected from any geological subsurface characterization activity. Requires the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to designate a repository or be the repository for any scientific data collected from any geological subsurface characterization activity on lands it holds in trust. Requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources to amend its exemption list to specify that certain geological subsurface characterization activities shall be exempt from the environmental review process or shall only require an exemption notice. Requires the University of Hawaii to amend its exemption list to specify that certain geological subsurface characterization activities shall be exempt from the environmental review process or shall only require an exemption notice. Requires the Department of Health to amend its rules related to hazardous waste and hazardous waste management for consistency with federal regulations to specify that certain waste products generated by geological subsurface characterization activity are exempt from hazardous waste management requirements. Requires that the first site where a borehole or test hole is drilled shall be on lands owned by DHHL. Establishes the Hawaii Groundwater and **Geothermal** Resources Center within the School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology of UH Manoa. Appropriates funds.

Report Title: DBED; DLNR; DOH; DHHL; UH; SOEST; HGGRC; Geological Subsurface Characterization; Natural Resources; Groundwater; **Geothermal** Resources; Hazardous Waste; Exemptions; Administrative Rules; Appropriations

Introduced by: WAKAI, CHANG, RHOADS, RICHARDS, Moriwaki

Companion: HB1983

Current Referral: EDT/HWN/WLA/EDU, WAM/JDC

Current Status: Referred to EDT/HWN/WLA/EDU, WAM/JDC.
(2026-01-30)

https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=SB&billnumber=2901&year=2026

14.

SB3081 SD1

2026

Title: RELATING TO A PROGRAM TO CHARACTERIZE THE POTENTIAL OF UNDERGROUND ENERGY RESOURCES STATEWIDE.

Description: Establishes the Underground Energy Resource Characterization Program to identify the location and characteristics of underground energy resources through the use of slim-hole bores and requires a related environmental assessment or environmental impact statement. Requires reports to the legislature. Appropriates funds. Effective 4/19/2042. (SD1)

Report Title: Hawaii State Energy Office; Water Resources; **Geothermal** Exploration; University of Hawaii; Reports; Appropriation

Introduced by: KOUCHI (Introduced by request of another party).

Companion: HB2262

Current Referral: EEP, WAL, FIN

Current Status: Referred to EEP, WAL, FIN, referral sheet 16
(2026-03-10)

https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=SB&billnumber=3081&year=2026

15.

SB3223

2026

Title: RELATING TO NATURAL RESOURCES.

Description: Authorizes geological subsurface characterization activities conducted by a public research institution under certain conditions. Clarifies that boreholes or test holes drilled for the purposes of geological subsurface characterization are distinct from water well exploration and **geothermal** or mineral exploration. Requires the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, to designate the Hawaii Groundwater and **Geothermal** Resources Center of the University of Hawaii, or a successor entity, as the repository for data collected from any geological subsurface characterization activity. Requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources to amend its exemption list to specify that certain geological subsurface characterization activities shall be exempt from the environmental review process or shall only require an exemption notice. Requires the University of Hawaii to amend its exemption list to specify that certain geological subsurface characterization activities shall be exempt from the environmental review process or shall only require an exemption notice. Requires the Department of Health to amend its rules related to hazardous waste and hazardous waste management for consistency with federal regulations to specify that certain waste products generated by geological subsurface characterization activity are exempt from hazardous waste management requirements.

Report Title: DBEDT; DLNR; DOH; UH; Hawaii Groundwater and **Geothermal** Resources Center; Geological Subsurface Characterization; Natural Resources; Groundwater; **Geothermal** Resources; Hazardous Waste; Exemptions; Administrative Rules

Introduced by: RICHARDS

Current Referral: EDT/WLA/EDU, WAM/JDC

Current Status: Referred to EDT/WLA/EDU, WAM/JDC.
(2026-02-02)

https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=SB&billnumber=3223&year=2026

16.

SB993

2026

Title: RELATING TO **GEOTHERMAL** ENERGY EXPLORATION.

Description: Requires the Hawaii State Energy Office to conduct a statewide environmental assessment for, and subsequently administer, a **Geothermal** Resources Characterization Program under the direction of the Hawaii Groundwater and **Geothermal** Resources Center at the University of Hawaii. Appropriates funds.

Report Title: HSEO; UH; **Geothermal** Energy; Environmental Assessment; **Geothermal** Resources Characterization Program

HB-1307-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 11:42:26 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Bambara	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Representatives,

I can only hope you have read the many first hand accounts of disaster that PGV has inflicted on the community for decades. The lack of oversight,as it was, caused huge toxic troubles in past accidents.

How anyone could seriously believe that environmental review should be lessened or eliminated is hard to understand and simply reaks of either ignorance or secret gifting reasonings because otherwise, the state constitution guarantees us the right to a healthy, safe environment. If anything, given geothermal's history, the environmental review process should be stricter, not eliminated or neutered.

Thank you for taking this important plea into consideration to OPPOSE this bill whilst doing your duties as our REPRESENTATIVES entrusted to PROTECT US and the aina, rather than off island lobbyies'ts secretly funded desires. PLEASE do the right thing and oppose this bill.

Exasperatedly submitted,

Susan Bambara, Big Island

HB-1307-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 12:26:47 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pua Case	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in strong opposition to the appropriation of funds to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands for water well development for geophysical investigation exploration and identification of geothermal resources on Hawaiian Home lands. In all of my research, I cannot find any consultation or commitment of agreement from beneficiaries on this bill nor any communication with the communities that would be impacted by geothermal in their areas or near their land bases. I implore you to vote in opposition of this bill.

Sincerely, Pua Case

HB-1307-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 12:40:54 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leah K	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge you to oppose any bill that advances geothermal exploration or development through DBED or DHHL.

Our ‘āina is not a commodity.

Our sacred sites are not expendable.

Our people are not collateral damage.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

HB-1307-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 1:47:54 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
TERRIE-LYN LAU	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Submitted by: Terrie-Lyn Lau Position: Strong Oppoiton to HB1307 HD2

Aloha, **Ccmmitee on Hawaiian Affairs,** Chair Senator
Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair Senator Rachele Lamosao **Committee on Energy**
& Intergovernmental Affairs Chair Senator Glenn
Wakai Chair Senator Stanley Chang

My name is Terrie-Lyn Lau. I submit this testimony in strong opposition to any legislative measure that advances geothermal exploration, exploratory drilling, or geothermal development through the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBED) and/or the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL).

This testimony is offered not only as a political position, but as a statement of lived experience, ancestral responsibility, and lived consequence.

I am submitting testimony in strong opposition to HB1307. Geothermal exploration on Hawaiian Home Lands threatens wahi pana, burial sites, and cultural landscapes that carry deep ancestral meaning. Drilling slim holes, boring into subsurface formations, and conducting geophysical testing are not neutral activities—they are industrial intrusions into lands meant to restore Native Hawaiians, not expose them to environmental risk. Advancing this bill without broad, informed beneficiary consultation repeats the same patterns of harm that have historically fractured trust between Native Hawaiian communities and state agencies.

The environmental risks are equally serious. Geothermal exploration can disturb groundwater systems, release hazardous gases, and bring heavy industrial traffic into homestead areas. These impacts fall squarely on beneficiaries, yet HB1307 contains no mandatory cultural impact assessments, no environmental safeguards, and no community protections. The bill presumes that energy development is an appropriate use of trust lands without demonstrating that beneficiaries agree or that their cultural and environmental concerns will be respected.

For these reasons, I urge the Committee to hold HB1307. Hawaiian Home Lands must not be treated as experimental energy sites. Until DHHL can show genuine beneficiary support, robust cultural protections, and a commitment to safeguarding the environment, geothermal exploration on trust lands is unacceptable.

Respectfully with Aloha,
Terrie-Lyn Lau

HB-1307-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 2:20:19 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaiewa Spencer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN STRONG OPPOSITION To HB1307 HD2

Relating to DBED and DHHL Bills Supporting Exploratory Drilling and Geothermal Development ON ALL MOKU. HB1307 HD2 Appropriates funds to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands for water well development for geophysical investigation, exploration, and identification of geothermal resources on Hawaiian home lands.

Submitted by: Kaiewa Spencer

Position: Strong Opposition to HB1307 HD2

Aloha,

COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Chair Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III,

Vice Chair Senator Rachele Lamosao

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Chair Senator Glenn Wakai

Chair Senator Stanley Chang

My name is Kaiewa Spencer. I submit this testimony in strong opposition to any legislative measure that advances geothermal exploration, exploratory drilling, or geothermal development through the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBED) and/or the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL).

This testimony is offered not only as a political position, but as a statement of lived experience, ancestral responsibility, and lived consequence.

—

Geothermal Has Already Harmed Our People and ‘Āina

Geothermal development in Hawai‘i is not theoretical. It has a documented history of physical harm, displacement, illness, and desecration — particularly to Kanaka Maoli communities living closest to these projects.

Communities near geothermal operations have experienced:

- Chronic health issues linked to hydrogen sulfide and toxic emissions
- Loss of access to ancestral lands
- Devaluation of homes and forced displacement
- Ongoing psychological stress from living near industrial extraction sites

These harms are not “externalities.” They are borne by our people, while benefits flow elsewhere.

To advance geothermal again — under new language or new agencies — is to ignore lived trauma and repeat known harms.

—

DHHL’s Role Is Especially Troubling

The involvement of DHHL in geothermal exploration and development is deeply troubling and fundamentally contradictory to its trust responsibility.

DHHL exists to:

- Restore land to Native Hawaiians
- Improve health, stability, and well-being of beneficiaries
- Correct historical injustices, not deepen them

Yet DHHL has proposed or supported geothermal activity in areas such as Humu‘ula, a region of profound cultural, spiritual, and genealogical significance.

Humu‘ula is not an “empty” landscape. It is:

- A sacred cultural region
- A storied ancestral space
- A place of ongoing spiritual practice and relationship

To propose exploratory drilling — which is not benign — in such a place constitutes desecration, regardless of mitigation language or consultation claims.

There is no version of geothermal drilling that is culturally neutral.

—

Exploratory Drilling Is Not Harmless

The framing of “exploratory” geothermal drilling as low-impact is misleading.

Exploration involves:

- Deep drilling into the body of the ‘āina
- Alteration of subsurface systems
- Introduction of industrial infrastructure
- Irreversible disturbance, even if full development does not proceed

For Kanaka Maoli, the ‘āina is a living relative. You do not “test” a living body without consequence.

—

Economic Framing Ignores Cultural Impacts and Harm.

Geothermal is often justified using language of:

- Renewable energy

- Sustainability
- Economic development

But these frameworks exclude cultural and spiritual harm — These cultural impacts are real, cumulative, and intergenerational.

The stress of watching sacred lands threatened, industrialized, or extracted from is not abstract. It manifests as:

- Anxiety, Depression, PTSD and grief
- Community fragmentation
- Loss of trust in institutions and government
- Re-traumatization of people already carrying historical dispossession.

True sustainability cannot come at the cost of continued harm to our people.

—

This Is Not Consent

Consultation does not equal consent.

WE DO NOT CONSENT TO DHHL GEOTHERMAL INITIATIVES

Notice does not equal consent. SCHEDULING BENEFICIARY CONSULTATION MEETINGS AFTER THE INTRODUCTION AND PASSAGE OF BILLS IS A VIOLATION UNDERMINES PROCEDURAL FAIRNESS.

Participation under duress does not equal consent.

Kanaka Maoli opposition to geothermal has been consistent, informed, and rooted in experience. To proceed anyway is consultation becoming a formality rather than a safeguard to protect our assets not exploit us.

HB1307 HD2, which appropriates funds to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) for water well development and geophysical investigation, exploration, and identification of geothermal resources on Hawaiian home lands, raises significant legal issues related to the protection of customary and traditional rights, public trust resources, and procedural safeguards under Hawai‘i law. Geothermal exploration and development on DHHL lands can materially affect access to water, land, and cultural sites, triggering obligations under the Hawai‘i Constitution, statutory frameworks, and Hawai‘i Supreme Court precedents. The key legal considerations include:

Key Legal Considerations

- Hawai‘i Constitution – Public Trust & Environmental Protection
- Article XI, § 1: All public natural resources are held in trust for present and future generations and must be conserved and protected.
- Article XII, § 7: The State must reaffirm and protect customary and traditional practices exercised by Native Hawaiian beneficiaries.
 - Customary & Traditional Rights Jurisprudence
- Pele Defense Fund v. Paty (1992): Customary rights extend beyond the ahupua‘a of residence; denial of access for subsistence, cultural, or religious practices may be legally challenged.
 - Hawai‘i Revised Statutes – Public Trust & Resource Duties
- HRS Chapter 343: Environmental review (EIS/EA) required for projects affecting natural and cultural resources.
- HRS §§ 171 & 205A: Establish public trust duties, land use protections, and require safeguarding resources for beneficiaries.
 - Environmental Rights & Planning Laws
- Land use planning statutes require evaluation of ecological, cultural, historic, and open space values before permitting projects that impact public trust resources.
 - Procedural & Fiduciary Obligations
- Pre-decisional, meaningful consultation with beneficiaries is legally required.

- Failing to consult before decisions are made risks violating customary rights, trust responsibilities, and may lead to legal challenges.
 - Practical Implications for HB1307 HD2
- Geothermal exploration and well development may impact water, land, and cultural sites.
- Without proper consultation and environmental review, beneficiaries' rights and kuleana to 'āina may be compromised.

A Call for a Different Path

If the State of Hawai'i is serious about renewable energy, climate resilience, and justice, then it must:

- Reject geothermal projects that harm Kanaka Maoli and sacred 'āina
- Remove DHHL from extractive energy development entirely
- Invest in community-led, truly regenerative energy solutions
- Respect cultural landscapes as living systems, not development zones

Energy sovereignty cannot be built on cultural sacrifice.

—

Conclusion

I urge you to oppose any bill that advances geothermal exploration or development through DBED or DHHL.

Our 'āina is not a commodity.

Our sacred sites are not expendable.

Our people are not collateral damage.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Respectfully,

Kaiewa Spencer

HB-1307-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 3:43:52 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jim Albertini	Testifying for Malu 'Aina Center for Non-violent Education & Action	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Legislators,

Our organization strongly opposes this Bill 1307. As a resident and farmer of Puna on Moku O Keawe I have first hand experience with Geothermal. First I find it a desecration of Hawaiian diety Madamn Pele and Hawaiian spiritual beliefs. It is putting profits over the sacred. Seconly, it is a serious health and safety issue to people, land and water as we have experienced up close here in Puna. I have been living off the grid for 45 years on small scale solar and I encourage others to do the same.

Respect Pele and Hawaiian religious beliefs. Protect the earth. No geothermal.

Mahalo/

Jim Albertini, President of Malu 'Aina

HB-1307-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 4:06:39 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chaya Ilikea Arakaki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is `Ilikea Tohara. I submit this testimony in strong opposition to any legislative measure that advances geothermal exploration, exploratory drilling, or geothermal development through the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBED) and/or the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL).

This testimony is offered not only as a political position, but as a statement of lived experience, ancestral responsibility, and lived consequence.

—

Geothermal Has Already Harmed Our People and ‘Āina

Geothermal development in Hawai‘i is not theoretical. It has a documented history of physical harm, displacement, illness, and desecration — particularly to Kanaka Maoli communities living closest to these projects.

Communities near geothermal operations have experienced:

- **Chronic health issues linked to hydrogen sulfide and toxic emissions**
- **Loss of access to ancestral lands**
- **Devaluation of homes and forced displacement**
- **Ongoing psychological stress from living near industrial extraction sites**

These harms are not “externalities.” They are borne by our people, while benefits flow elsewhere.

To advance geothermal again — under new language or new agencies — is to ignore lived trauma and repeat known harms.

—

DHHL’s Role Is Especially Troubling

The involvement of DHHL in geothermal exploration and development is deeply troubling and fundamentally contradictory to its trust responsibility.

DHHL exists to:

- **Restore land to Native Hawaiians**
- **Improve health, stability, and well-being of beneficiaries**
- **Correct historical injustices, not deepen them**

Yet DHHL has proposed or supported geothermal activity in areas such as Humu‘ula, a region of profound cultural, spiritual, and genealogical significance.

Humu‘ula is not an “empty” landscape. It is:

- **A sacred cultural region**
- **A storied ancestral space**
- **A place of ongoing spiritual practice and relationship**

To propose exploratory drilling — which is not benign — in such a place constitutes desecration, regardless of mitigation language or consultation claims.

There is no version of geothermal drilling that is culturally neutral.

Exploratory Drilling Is Not Harmless

The framing of “exploratory” geothermal drilling as low-impact is misleading.

Exploration involves:

- **Deep drilling into the body of the ‘āina**
- **Alteration of subsurface systems**
- **Introduction of industrial infrastructure**
- **Irreversible disturbance, even if full development does not proceed**

For Kanaka Maoli, the ‘āina is a living relative. You do not “test” a living body without consequence.

—

Economic Framing Ignores Cultural Impacts and Harm.

Geothermal is often justified using language of:

- **Renewable energy**
- **Sustainability**
- **Economic development**

But these frameworks exclude cultural and spiritual harm — These cultural impacts are real, cumulative, and intergenerational.

The stress of watching sacred lands threatened, industrialized, or extracted from is not abstract. It manifests as:

- **Anxiety, Depression, PTSD and grief**
- **Community fragmentation**
- **Loss of trust in institutions and government**
- **Re-traumatization of people already carrying historical dispossession.**

True sustainability cannot come at the cost of continued harm to our people.

This Is Not Consent

Consultation does not equal consent.

WE DO NOT CONSENT TO DHHL GEOTHERMAL INITIATIVES

Notice does not equal consent. SCHEDULING BENEFICIARY CONSULTATION MEETINGS AFTER THE INTRODUCTION AND PASSAGE OF BILLS IS A VIOLATION UNDERMINES PROCEDURAL FAIRNESS.

Participation under duress does not equal consent.

Kanaka Maoli opposition to geothermal has been consistent, informed, and rooted in experience. To proceed anyway is consultation becoming a formality rather than a safeguard to protect our assets not exploit us.

HB1307 HD2, which appropriates funds to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) for water well development and geophysical investigation, exploration, and identification of geothermal resources on Hawaiian home lands, raises significant legal issues related to the protection of customary and traditional rights, public trust resources,

and procedural safeguards under Hawai'i law. Geothermal exploration and development on DHHL lands can materially affect access to water, land, and cultural sites, triggering obligations under the Hawai'i Constitution, statutory frameworks, and Hawai'i Supreme Court precedents. The key legal considerations include:

Key Legal Considerations

- **Hawai'i Constitution – Public Trust & Environmental Protection**
- **Article XI, § 1: All public natural resources are held in trust for present and future generations and must be conserved and protected.**
- **Article XII, § 7: The State must reaffirm and protect customary and traditional practices exercised by Native Hawaiian beneficiaries.**
- **Customary & Traditional Rights Jurisprudence**
- **Pele Defense Fund v. Paty (1992): Customary rights extend beyond the ahupua'a of residence; denial of access for subsistence, cultural, or religious practices may be legally challenged.**
- **Hawai'i Revised Statutes – Public Trust & Resource Duties**
- **HRS Chapter 343: Environmental review (EIS/EA) required for projects affecting natural and cultural resources.**
- **HRS §§ 171 & 205A: Establish public trust duties, land use protections, and require safeguarding resources for beneficiaries.**
- **Environmental Rights & Planning Laws**
- **Land use planning statutes require evaluation of ecological, cultural, historic, and open space values before permitting projects that impact public trust resources.**
- **Procedural & Fiduciary Obligations**
- **Pre-decisional, meaningful consultation with beneficiaries is legally required.**
- **Failing to consult before decisions are made risks violating customary rights, trust responsibilities, and may lead to legal challenges.**
- **Practical Implications for HB1307 HD2**
- **Geothermal exploration and well development may impact water, land, and cultural sites.**

• Without proper consultation and environmental review, beneficiaries' rights and kuleana to 'āina may be compromised.

A Call for a Different Path

If the State of Hawai'i is serious about renewable energy, climate resilience, and justice, then it must:

- Reject geothermal projects that harm Kanaka Maoli and sacred 'āina**
- Remove DHHL from extractive energy development entirely**
- Invest in community-led, truly regenerative energy solutions**
- Respect cultural landscapes as living systems, not development zones**

Energy sovereignty cannot be built on cultural sacrifice.

Conclusion

I urge you to oppose any bill that advances geothermal exploration or development through DBED or DHHL.

Our 'āina is not a commodity.

Our sacred sites are not expendable.

Our people are not collateral damage.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Respectfully,

'Ilikea Tohara

HB-1307-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 4:21:38 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Luana Jones	Testifying for Geothermal Neighbors	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Kākou,

**I was a Geothermal Neighbor for over 40 years, Represented the Community on a Geo. Junket to NV & CA in 1989 (that confirmed our fears). Advocated for automatic notification for surrounding residents, and source point monitoring of H2S (CA). Also petitioned for gas masks (after neighbor's homes filled with gas) and a Comm. (Included) Emergency Response Plan, due to experiencing the 1991 Blowout!
Hawai'i has some of the hottest and most toxic geo. fluids in the World! The affluent is pilau and reinjected with millions of gallons of (our precious wai) water per day!
Contradicts Aloha 'Āina, is A'ole Pono, and therefor violates the Kanawai (Ancient Hawai'i Law) and must be Opposed. Ua mau ke Ea o ka 'Āina i ka Pono!**

Me ka Ha'aha'a a me Aloha, We Strongly Oppose.

HB-1307-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 5:14:12 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Candice Johnson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN STRONG OPPOSITION To HB1307 HD2

Relating to DBED and DHHL Bills Supporting Exploratory Drilling and Geothermal Development ON ALL MOKU. HB1307 HD2 Appropriates funds to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands for water well development for geophysical investigation, exploration, and identification of geothermal resources on Hawaiian home lands.

Submitted by: Candice J. Hololio Johnson

Position: Strong Opposition to HB1307 HD2

Aloha,

COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Chair Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III,

Vice Chair Senator Rachele Lamosao

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Chair Senator Glenn Wakai

Chair Senator Stanley Chang

My name is Candice J. Hololio Johnson. I submit this testimony in strong opposition to any legislative measure that advances geothermal exploration, exploratory drilling, or geothermal

development through the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBED) and/or the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL).

This testimony is offered not only as a political position, but as a statement of lived experience, ancestral responsibility, and lived consequence.

—

Geothermal Has Already Harmed Our People and ‘Āina

Geothermal development in Hawai‘i is not theoretical. It has a documented history of physical harm, displacement, illness, and desecration — particularly to Kanaka Maoli communities living closest to these projects.

Communities near geothermal operations have experienced:

- Chronic health issues linked to hydrogen sulfide and toxic emissions
- Loss of access to ancestral lands
- Devaluation of homes and forced displacement
- Ongoing psychological stress from living near industrial extraction sites

These harms are not “externalities.” They are borne by our people, while benefits flow elsewhere.

To advance geothermal again — under new language or new agencies — is to ignore lived trauma and repeat known harms.

DHHL’s Role Is Especially Troubling

The involvement of DHHL in geothermal exploration and development is deeply troubling and fundamentally contradictory to its trust responsibility.

DHHL exists to:

- Restore land to Native Hawaiians
- Improve health, stability, and well-being of beneficiaries
- Correct historical injustices, not deepen them

Yet DHHL has proposed or supported geothermal activity in areas such as Humu‘ula, a region of profound cultural, spiritual, and genealogical significance.

Humu‘ula is not an “empty” landscape. It is:

- A sacred cultural region
- A storied ancestral space
- A place of ongoing spiritual practice and relationship

To propose exploratory drilling — which is not benign — in such a place constitutes desecration, regardless of mitigation language or consultation claims.

There is no version of geothermal drilling that is culturally neutral.

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Exploratory Drilling Is Not Harmless

The framing of “exploratory” geothermal drilling as low-impact is misleading.

Exploration involves:

- Deep drilling into the body of the ‘āina
- Alteration of subsurface systems
- Introduction of industrial infrastructure
- Irreversible disturbance, even if full development does not proceed

For Kanaka Maoli, the ‘āina is a living relative. You do not “test” a living body without consequence.

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Economic Framing Ignores Cultural Impacts and Harm.

Geothermal is often justified using language of:

- Renewable energy
- Sustainability

- Economic development

But these frameworks exclude cultural and spiritual harm — These cultural impacts are real, cumulative, and intergenerational.

The stress of watching sacred lands threatened, industrialized, or extracted from is not abstract. It manifests as:

- Anxiety, Depression, PTSD and grief
- Community fragmentation
- Loss of trust in institutions and government
- Re-traumatization of people already carrying historical dispossession.

True sustainability cannot come at the cost of continued harm to our people.

—

This Is Not Consent

Consultation does not equal consent.

WE DO NOT CONSENT TO DHHL GEOTHERMAL INITIATIVES

Notice does not equal consent. SCHEDULING BENEFICIARY CONSULTATION MEETINGS AFTER THE INTRODUCTION AND PASSAGE OF BILLS IS A VIOLATION UNDERMINES PROCEDURAL FAIRNESS.

Participation under duress does not equal consent.

Kanaka Maoli opposition to geothermal has been consistent, informed, and rooted in experience. To proceed anyway is consultation becoming a formality rather than a safeguard to protect our assets not exploit us.

HB1307 HD2, which appropriates funds to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) for water well development and geophysical investigation, exploration, and identification of geothermal resources on Hawaiian home lands, raises significant legal issues related to the protection of customary and traditional rights, public trust resources, and procedural safeguards under Hawai‘i law. Geothermal exploration and development on DHHL lands can materially affect access to water, land, and cultural sites, triggering obligations under the Hawai‘i Constitution, statutory frameworks, and Hawai‘i Supreme Court precedents. The key legal considerations include:

Key Legal Considerations

- Hawai‘i Constitution – Public Trust & Environmental Protection
- Article XI, § 1: All public natural resources are held in trust for present and future generations and must be conserved and protected.
- Article XII, § 7: The State must reaffirm and protect customary and traditional practices exercised by Native Hawaiian beneficiaries.
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 - Procedural & Fiduciary Obligations
- Pre-decisional, meaningful consultation with beneficiaries is legally required.

- Failing to consult before decisions are made risks violating customary rights, trust responsibilities, and may lead to legal challenges.
 - Practical Implications for HB1307 HD2
- Geothermal exploration and well development may impact water, land, and cultural sites.
- Without proper consultation and environmental review, beneficiaries' rights and kuleana to 'āina may be compromised.

A Call for a Different Path

If the State of Hawai'i is serious about renewable energy, climate resilience, and justice, then it must:

- Reject geothermal projects that harm Kanaka Maoli and sacred 'āina
- Remove DHHL from extractive energy development entirely
- Invest in community-led, truly regenerative energy solutions
- Respect cultural landscapes as living systems, not development zones

Energy sovereignty cannot be built on cultural sacrifice.

—

Conclusion

I urge you to oppose any bill that advances geothermal exploration or development through DBED or DHHL.

Our 'āina is not a commodity.

Our sacred sites are not expendable.

Our people are not collateral damage.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Respectfully,

Candice J. Hololio Johnson

HB-1307-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 6:45:06 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ramona Hussey	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose HB1307.

There are other priorities for Hawaiian Homelands than pushing for geothermal exploitation. Hawaiian Homelands have not yet fulfilled their purpose. And their purpose is NOT for government to use or businesses to make money. Please oppose this bill, and any other proposals to violate the purpose of Hawaiian Homelands..

HB-1307-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 7:32:10 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan B Roberts Emery	Testifying for Green Party of Hawai'i	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Chang, Chair Richards, Vice Chair Lamosao and honorable members of committee,

My name is Susan RobertsEmery, as co chair of the Green Party and on behalf of our members we are in opposition to HB1370 HD2. The greenwashing that goes along with this bill is not something we support.

Green Party of Hawai'i humbly urges you to defer HB1307 HD2.

Mahalo,

Susan RobertsEmery

Green Party of Hawai'i

Paauilo

HB-1307-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 8:02:48 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cory Harden	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha legislators,

Please support distributed generation from solar, wind, and hydro. No costly, risky drilling required!

mahalo,

Cory Harden,Hilo

HB-1307-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 7:18:49 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
fred hofer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN STRONG OPPOSITION To HB1307 HD2

Relating to DBED and DHHL Bills Supporting Exploratory Drilling and Geothermal Development ON ALL MOKU. HB1307 HD2 Appropriates funds to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands for water well development for geophysical investigation, exploration, and identification of geothermal resources on Hawaiian home lands.

Submitted by: Fred Hofer

Position: Strong Opposition to HB1307 HD2

Aloha,

COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Chair Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III,

Vice Chair Senator Rachele Lamosao

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Chair Senator Glenn Wakai

Chair Senator Stanley Chang

My name is Fred Hofer. I submit this testimony in strong opposition to any legislative measure that advances geothermal exploration, exploratory drilling, or geothermal development through the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBED) and/or the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL).

This testimony is offered not only as a political position, but as a statement of lived experience, ancestral responsibility, and lived consequence.

—

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To advance geothermal again — under new language or new agencies — is to ignore lived trauma and repeat known harms.

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—

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—

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Kanaka Maoli opposition to geothermal has been consistent, informed, and rooted in experience. To proceed anyway is consultation becoming a formality rather than a safeguard to protect our assets not exploit us.

HB1307 HD2, which appropriates funds to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) for water well development and geophysical investigation, exploration, and identification of geothermal resources on Hawaiian home lands, raises significant legal issues related to the protection of customary and traditional rights, public trust resources, and procedural safeguards under Hawai‘i law. Geothermal exploration and development on DHHL lands can materially affect access to water, land, and cultural sites, triggering obligations under the Hawai‘i Constitution, statutory frameworks, and Hawai‘i Supreme Court precedents. The key legal considerations include:

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- Practical Implications for HB1307 HD2
- Geothermal exploration and well development may impact water, land, and cultural sites.
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A Call for a Different Path

If the State of Hawai'i is serious about renewable energy, climate resilience, and justice, then it must:

- Reject geothermal projects that harm Kanaka Maoli and sacred 'āina
- Remove DHHL from extractive energy development entirely
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- Respect cultural landscapes as living systems, not development zones

Energy sovereignty cannot be built on cultural sacrifice.

—

Conclusion

I urge you to oppose any bill that advances geothermal exploration or development through DBED or DHHL.

Our 'āina is not a commodity.

Our sacred sites are not expendable.

Our people are not collateral damage.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Respectfully,

Fred Hofer

Hilo 96720

HB-1307-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 7:20:02 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tara Rojas	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members,

I am in **strong opposition to HB1307 HD2.**

This bill funds DHHL to drill wells and conduct geophysical exploration for geothermal on Hawaiian Home Lands.

Let's be clear - this is not just a "study."

This is the **first step toward geothermal development.**

DHHL has already identified **multiple potential sites**, and exploration alone can cost **millions of dollars.**

This is laying the groundwork for long-term industrial use of lands that are supposed to be held in trust for Native Hawaiians.

We already know what happens.

In Puna:

- The **1991 blowout released toxic gas into communities**
- Residents continue to report health impacts and lack of transparency

This is not hypothetical - it is documented, lived experience.

Once drilling starts, the impacts are **long-term and irreversible.**

And now this is being proposed on **Hawaiian Home Lands.**

These lands are not meant for speculative energy extraction.

They are meant to support the people.

Even beneficiaries themselves have testified in opposition, saying this prioritizes **money over community and culture.**

So I ask:

Why are we funding exploration **before consent**?
Why are we risking these lands **before protection**?

This is not pono.

Learn from history. Pay attention to **Tūtū Pele - she is speaking.**

I respectfully urge you to **DEFER HB1307 HD2.**

Mahalo.

HB-1307-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 7:24:07 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Petricci	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Robert Petricci
In opposition to HB1307
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Tim Richards chair, Rachele Lamosao vice chair, and committee members

Committee on energy and intergovernmental affairs

Glen Wakai chair, Stanley Chang vice chair and committee members

Aloha

Thank you for the chance to speak on this important funding matter. Since 1981 as far as I can tell geothermal has recieved 10's of millions of tax dollars from both the state and the federal governements. perhaps even 100 million or more. Before any more of our tax dollars are given to these private developers there should be an accounting of what has already been given and what exactly we as tax payers and ratepayers have gotten for those millions of dollars. Centralized power plants are handicapped by the fact they need the grid to move the power to were it is needed. That is ov er half the cost we pay for our power, it also is vulnerable to disruptions as we saw again during the last storm, and dangerous as we saw in the recent Clifornia and Maui fires. The grid is far from green and it is an eyesore at best. This is the 21st century we have space ships, robots, and laser weapons but are still nailing a wire to a tree as when the telegraph first was created. Putting the power where it is needed is the future, it is far less costly, more reliable, and much greener. Independant solar put on homes and commercial muses is far less costly to the the users. Many of the largest corporations in the country are putting in their own solar power to reduce cost, we should do the same. Hawaii is the perfect storm to start retracting the grid with the most expensive power in the country at over .40KWH and Helco has just ask for 2 more rate increases. Solar cost have dropped every year since at least 1999 and will continue to go down while centralized power cost will go uo partly because of our isolation and the grid. We will never get affordable power doing the same thimgs over and over that have not ever worked here. Further the timeline for any new geothermal power plant is at best 12 years according to the special interest asking for these additional milloions. more realistically they admit it could be 20 years. The cost of homeowner solar will continue to go down over that time because of inovation and cometition. Help the homeowner insteadm of the special interest is a far better approach. It is their tax dollars anyway and spreads it out as opposed to concertrating these monies in the hands

of a few special interest. For the reasons stated and many more to lengthy to list here I storgnly oppose giving any more money to an industry that has had it's hand out for 50 years. Please help the actual people who you represent and who are paying for this. I have been on solar for 25 years, it works and my bill is now zero, you can not get more affordable than that. Puna is the largest off grid community I can find in the entire country, thousands of families are off grid and pay no elecrtic bill. This is a laboratory for ypou to see an actual model that not only works but has sprung from the people that live here without much if any help from taxpayers. I am not talking about grid tied solar, tyhese systems are stand alone.

Mahalo Robert Petricci

HB-1307-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 8:25:10 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Damien Awai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Sample testimony DHHL Geothermal Opposition

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN STRONG OPPOSITION To HB1307 HD2

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Submitted by: [Your Name]

Position: Strong Opposition to HB1307 HD2

Aloha,

COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Chair Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III,

Vice Chair Senator Rachele Lamosao

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Chair Senator Glenn Wakai

Chair Senator Stanley Chang

My name is [Your Name]. I submit this testimony in strong opposition to any legislative measure that advances geothermal exploration, exploratory drilling, or geothermal development through the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBED) and/or the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL).

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Conclusion

I urge you to oppose any bill that advances geothermal exploration or development through DBED or DHHL.

Our 'āina is not a commodity.

Our sacred sites are not expendable.

Our people are not collateral damage.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Respectfully,

[Your Name]

HB-1307-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 8:31:58 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
E E Keliipuleole	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

COMMITTED ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Chair Senator Herbert M Richard's III

Vice Chair Senator Rachele Lamosao

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Chair Senator Glenn Wakai

Chair Senator Stanley Chang

My name is Puna Keliipuleole. I submit this testimony in strong opposition to any legislative measure that advances geothermal exploration, exploratory drilling, or geothermal development through the Department of Business Economic Development and Tourism (DBED) and/or the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL).

In a nutshell, we are not expendable and do not desecrate what we thrive in. Our kuleana must be safeguarded to protect us for future generations. It must not be exploited and destroyed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this testimony in strong opposition.

Respectfully,

Eleonora (Puna) Keliipuleole

HB-1307-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 8:49:37 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Nanea Lo, and I am writing in strong opposition to HB1307, which proposes appropriating funds to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) for geothermal exploration on Hawaiian Home Lands.

While I recognize the importance of pursuing renewable energy solutions, this bill raises serious concerns regarding the protection of ‘āina, cultural resources, and the well-being of Native Hawaiian beneficiaries.

Hawaiian Home Lands were established to support the rehabilitation and self-determination of Native Hawaiians. Any proposal involving land use—especially one as invasive and potentially harmful as geothermal exploration—must be approached with the highest level of transparency, meaningful consultation, and consent from beneficiaries. At this time, it is unclear whether DHHL beneficiaries have been adequately engaged or if their concerns have been centered in this process.

Geothermal development carries significant environmental and cultural risks. These lands are not just physical spaces—they are deeply connected to our identity, history, and spiritual practices. Disturbing these areas without clear, community-driven support undermines the trust responsibility owed to Native Hawaiians.

Additionally, there are longstanding concerns about environmental safety, including the potential for toxic emissions, groundwater contamination, and impacts to surrounding ecosystems. These risks disproportionately affect Native Hawaiian communities who already face systemic inequities.

Rather than fast-tracking exploratory funding, the State should prioritize:

- Meaningful and documented consultation with DHHL beneficiaries
- Cultural impact assessments led by Native Hawaiian practitioners
- Exploration of alternative renewable energy solutions that do not compromise sacred lands

HB1307, as it stands, does not sufficiently protect the rights, voices, or lands of the people it claims to serve.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to **DEFER or VOTE NO on HB1307.**

Me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo, 96826

Sierra Club of Hawai‘i Member

Hawai‘i Workers Center Board Member

Clean Elections Hawai‘i Member

Honolulu Tenants Union Member

350 Hawai‘i Member

Carbon Cashback Hawai‘i Member

Hawai‘i Tax Fairness Coalition Member

HB-1307-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 9:55:50 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dorinna Cortez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TESTIMONY IN STRONG OPPOSITION TO HB1307

To: The Committee on Finance

Date: March 23, 2026

Subject: Opposition to HB1307 – Appropriating Funds for Geothermal Exploration on Hawaiian Home Lands

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dorinna Cortez, and I am submitting this testimony in **strong opposition** to HB1307, which proposes to allocate state funds to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) for geothermal exploration, drilling, and geophysical investigation on trust lands.

While I understand the need for DHHL to generate revenue to address the longstanding homestead waitlist, this bill proposes a solution that sacrifices the sacred, cultural, and environmental integrity of Hawaiian home lands.

My opposition is based on the following:

1. Desecration of Cultural and Spiritual Sites

For many Kanaka Maoli, geothermal energy production represents a profound desecration of Pele, our sacred ancestor. Drilling into the earth is viewed as taking from her without proper consent and violating the *kapu* (sacred laws) that govern volcanic areas. The Hawaiian Homes Commission Act was created to return Native Hawaiians to the land, not to destroy that land through industrial development.

2. Lack of Meaningful Beneficiary Consultation

This proposal has been pushed forward with little to no meaningful consultation with beneficiaries, especially those residing near potential exploration sites. Excluding beneficiaries creates a "closed loop" of decision-making that undermines trust in the DHHL and fails to provide transparency to the community.

3. Environmental and Safety Hazards

Geothermal exploration and development threaten the safety of surrounding communities. The process risks contaminating groundwater with toxic substances such as mercury, arsenic, and

boron. Furthermore, the noise and air pollution associated with drilling can cause health issues, as seen in past and ongoing experiences near the Puna Geothermal Venture.

4. Failure to Focus on Core Mission

DHHL's primary kuleana is to provide homes. Using precious financial resources on speculative, high-cost geothermal studies is an inappropriate allocation of funding. As one testifier noted, beneficiaries deserve homes to live on, not industrial exploration on their land.

5. Continued Exploitation of Hawaiian Lands

There is a long history of DHHL lands being used for projects that do not directly benefit the beneficiaries, a refrain often repeated as "Everything on DHHL lands but Hawaiians." This bill continues that legacy.

Conclusion

Geothermal exploration on trust land is not a sustainable or culturally appropriate solution to funding challenges. I urge this committee to prioritize the safety, culture, and input of beneficiaries over the industrialization of our lands.

Please vote **NO** on HB1307.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Dorinna Cortez

HB-1307-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 10:04:46 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Regina Gregory	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

oppose

HB-1307-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 11:09:32 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anne Lorenzo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Chair Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III,

Vice Chair Senator Rachele Lamosao

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Chair Senator Glenn Wakai

Chair Senator Stanley Chang

My name is Anne M. Lorenzo. I submit this testimony in strong opposition to any legislative measure that advances geothermal exploration, exploratory drilling, or geothermal development through the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBED) and/or the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL).

This testimony is offered not only as a political position, but as a statement of lived experience, ancestral responsibility, and lived consequence.

—

Geothermal Has Already Harmed Our People and ‘Āina

Geothermal development in Hawai‘i is not theoretical. It has a documented history of physical harm, displacement, illness, and desecration — particularly to Kanaka Maoli communities living closest to these projects.

Communities near geothermal operations have experienced:

- **Chronic health issues linked to hydrogen sulfide and toxic emissions**
- **Loss of access to ancestral lands**
- **Devaluation of homes and forced displacement**
- **Ongoing psychological stress from living near industrial extraction sites**

These harms are not “externalities.” They are borne by our people, while benefits flow elsewhere.

To advance geothermal again — under new language or new agencies — is to ignore lived trauma and repeat known harms.

—

DHHL’s Role Is Especially Troubling

The involvement of DHHL in geothermal exploration and development is deeply troubling and fundamentally contradictory to its trust responsibility.

DHHL exists to:

- **Restore land to Native Hawaiians**
- **Improve health, stability, and well-being of beneficiaries**
- **Correct historical injustices, not deepen them**

Yet DHHL has proposed or supported geothermal activity in areas such as Humu‘ula, a region of profound cultural, spiritual, and genealogical significance.

Humu‘ula is not an “empty” landscape. It is:

- **A sacred cultural region**
- **A storied ancestral space**
- **A place of ongoing spiritual practice and relationship**

To propose exploratory drilling — which is not benign — in such a place constitutes desecration, regardless of mitigation language or consultation claims.

There is no version of geothermal drilling that is culturally neutral.

Exploratory Drilling Is Not Harmless

The framing of “exploratory” geothermal drilling as low-impact is misleading.

Exploration involves:

- **Deep drilling into the body of the ‘āina**
- **Alteration of subsurface systems**
- **Introduction of industrial infrastructure**
- **Irreversible disturbance, even if full development does not proceed**

For Kanaka Maoli, the ‘āina is a living relative. You do not “test” a living body without consequence.

Economic Framing Ignores Cultural Impacts and Harm.

Geothermal is often justified using language of:

- **Renewable energy**
- **Sustainability**
- **Economic development**

But these frameworks exclude cultural and spiritual harm — These cultural impacts are real, cumulative, and intergenerational.

The stress of watching sacred lands threatened, industrialized, or extracted from is not abstract. It manifests as:

- **Anxiety, Depression, PTSD and grief**
- **Community fragmentation**
- **Loss of trust in institutions and government**
- **Re-traumatization of people already carrying historical dispossession.**

True sustainability cannot come at the cost of continued harm to our people.

This Is Not Consent

Consultation does not equal consent.

WE DO NOT CONSENT TO DHHL GEOTHERMAL INITIATIVES

Notice does not equal consent. SCHEDULING BENEFICIARY CONSULTATION MEETINGS AFTER THE INTRODUCTION AND PASSAGE OF BILLS IS A VIOLATION UNDERMINES PROCEDURAL FAIRNESS.

Participation under duress does not equal consent.

Kanaka Maoli opposition to geothermal has been consistent, informed, and rooted in experience. To proceed anyway is consultation becoming a formality rather than a safeguard to protect our assets not exploit us.

HB1307 HD2, which appropriates funds to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) for water well development and geophysical investigation, exploration, and identification of geothermal resources on Hawaiian home lands, raises significant legal issues related to the protection of customary and traditional rights, public trust resources, and procedural safeguards under Hawai'i law. Geothermal exploration and development on DHHL lands can materially affect access to water, land, and cultural sites, triggering obligations under the Hawai'i Constitution, statutory frameworks, and Hawai'i Supreme Court precedents. The key legal considerations include:

 **Key Legal Considerations**

• Hawai'i Constitution – Public Trust & Environmental Protection

- **Article XI, § 1: All public natural resources are held in trust for present and future generations and must be conserved and protected.**
- **Article XII, § 7: The State must reaffirm and protect customary and traditional practices exercised by Native Hawaiian beneficiaries.**
- **Customary & Traditional Rights Jurisprudence**
- **Pele Defense Fund v. Paty (1992): Customary rights extend beyond the ahupua‘a of residence; denial of access for subsistence, cultural, or religious practices may be legally challenged.**
- **Hawai‘i Revised Statutes – Public Trust & Resource Duties**
- **HRS Chapter 343: Environmental review (EIS/EA) required for projects affecting natural and cultural resources.**
- **HRS §§ 171 & 205A: Establish public trust duties, land use protections, and require safeguarding resources for beneficiaries.**
- **Environmental Rights & Planning Laws**
- **Land use planning statutes require evaluation of ecological, cultural, historic, and open space values before permitting projects that impact public trust resources.**
- **Procedural & Fiduciary Obligations**
- **Pre-decisional, meaningful consultation with beneficiaries is legally required.**
- **Failing to consult before decisions are made risks violating customary rights, trust responsibilities, and may lead to legal challenges.**
- **Practical Implications for HB1307 HD2**
- **Geothermal exploration and well development may impact water, land, and cultural sites.**
- **Without proper consultation and environmental review, beneficiaries’ rights and kuleana to ‘āina may be compromised.**

A Call for a Different Path

If the State of Hawai‘i is serious about renewable energy, climate resilience, and justice, then it must:

- **Reject geothermal projects that harm Kanaka Maoli and sacred ‘āina**
- **Remove DHHL from extractive energy development entirely**
- **Invest in community-led, truly regenerative energy solutions**
- **Respect cultural landscapes as living systems, not development zones**

Energy sovereignty cannot be built on cultural sacrifice.

—

Conclusion

I urge you to oppose any bill that advances geothermal exploration or development through DBED or DHHL.

Our ‘āina is not a commodity.

Our sacred sites are not expendable.

Our people are not collateral damage.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Respectfully,

Anne M. Lorenzo

HB-1307-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 2:11:36 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Councilmember Tamara Paltin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair and committee members,

I oppose HB1307 HD 2

Mahalo,

Tamara Paltin

HB-1307-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 3:36:24 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elaine SanJose	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN STRONG OPPOSITION To HB1307 HD2

Relating to DBED and DHHL Bills Supporting Exploratory Drilling and Geothermal Development ON ALL MOKU. HB1307 HD2 Appropriates funds to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands for water well development for geophysical investigation, exploration, and identification of geothermal resources on Hawaiian home lands.

Submitted by: Mrs. Elaine Poipe Keali‘iwahāmanā Makaio SanJose

Position: Strong Opposition to HB1307 HD2

Aloha,

COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Chair Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III,

Vice Chair Senator Rachele Lamosao

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Chair Senator Glenn Wakai

Chair Senator Stanley Chang

My name is Elaine Poipe Keali‘iwahāmanā Makaio SanJose and along with my ‘ohana (family), who all are Lineal Descendants to the ‘āina (lands) you and these Corporate Entities are planning to fund this hewa nui loa (very bad) project upon our ‘ohana Buke Māhele Alodio ‘Āina. My ‘ohana (family) and I submit this testimony in strong opposition to any legislative measure that advances geothermal exploration, exploratory drilling, or geothermal development through the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBED) and/or the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL).

This testimony is offered not only as a political position, but as a statement of lived experience, ancestral responsibility, and lived consequence.

—

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Communities near geothermal operations have experienced:

- Chronic health issues linked to hydrogen sulfide and toxic emissions
- Loss of access to ancestral lands
- Devaluation of homes and forced displacement
- Ongoing psychological stress from living near industrial extraction sites

These harms are not “externalities.” They are borne by our people, while benefits flow elsewhere.

To advance geothermal again — under new language or new agencies — is to ignore lived trauma and repeat known harms.

—

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The involvement of DHHL in geothermal exploration and development is deeply troubling and fundamentally contradictory to its trust responsibility.

DHHL exists to:

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- Improve health, stability, and well-being of beneficiaries
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Yet DHHL has proposed or supported geothermal activity in areas such as Humu‘ula, a region of profound cultural, spiritual, and genealogical significance.

Humu‘ula is not an “empty” landscape. It is:

- A sacred cultural region
- A storied ancestral space
- A place of ongoing spiritual practice and relationship

To propose exploratory drilling — which is not benign — in such a place constitutes desecration, regardless of mitigation language or consultation claims.

There is no version of geothermal drilling that is culturally neutral.

—

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—

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The stress of watching sacred lands threatened, industrialized, or extracted from is not abstract. It manifests as:

- Anxiety, Depression, PTSD and grief
- Community fragmentation
- Loss of trust in institutions and government
- Re-traumatization of people already carrying historical dispossession.

True sustainability cannot come at the cost of continued harm to our people.

—

This Is Not Consent

Consultation does not equal consent.

WE DO NOT CONSENT TO DHHL GEOTHERMAL INITIATIVES

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Participation under duress does not equal consent.

Kanaka Maoli opposition to geothermal has been consistent, informed, and rooted in experience. To proceed anyway is consultation becoming a formality rather than a safeguard to protect our assets not exploit us.

HB1307 HD2, which appropriates funds to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) for water well development and geophysical investigation, exploration, and identification of geothermal resources on Hawaiian home lands, raises significant legal issues related to the protection of customary and traditional rights, public trust resources, and procedural safeguards under Hawai‘i law. Geothermal exploration and development on DHHL lands can materially affect access to water, land, and cultural sites, triggering obligations under the Hawai‘i Constitution, statutory frameworks, and Hawai‘i Supreme Court precedents. The key legal considerations include:

Key Legal Considerations

- Hawai‘i Constitution – Public Trust & Environmental Protection
- Article XI, § 1: All public natural resources are held in trust for present and future generations and must be conserved and protected.
- Article XII, § 7: The State must reaffirm and protect customary and traditional practices exercised by Native Hawaiian beneficiaries.
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- Environmental Rights & Planning Laws
- Land use planning statutes require evaluation of ecological, cultural, historic, and open space values before permitting projects that impact public trust resources.

- Procedural & Fiduciary Obligations

- Pre-decisional, meaningful consultation with beneficiaries is legally required.
- Failing to consult before decisions are made risks violating customary rights, trust responsibilities, and may lead to legal challenges.

- Practical Implications for HB1307 HD2

- Geothermal exploration and well development may impact water, land, and cultural sites.
- Without proper consultation and environmental review, beneficiaries' rights and kuleana to 'āina may be compromised.

- According to the statute:

HRS § 172-11 pertains to Land patents on land commission awards; to whom, for whose benefit.

According to the statute:

Issuance in Original Name: Every land patent issued based on an award by the board of commissioners to quiet land titles must be issued in the name of the person who received the original award.

Applicability: This applies even if the original awardee is deceased or if the title to the land has already been sold or transferred (alienated).

Beneficiaries: Land patents issued this way inure to the benefit of the heirs and assigns of the original award holder.

This statute ensures that the paper trail of the land patent connects directly to the historical Land Commission Award, maintaining continuity in land title records

A Call for a Different Path

If the State of Hawai'i is serious about renewable energy, climate resilience, and justice, then it must:

- Reject geothermal projects that harm Kanaka Maoli and sacred 'āina
- Remove DHHL from extractive energy development entirely
- Invest in community-led, truly regenerative energy solutions

- Respect cultural landscapes as living systems, not development zones

Energy sovereignty cannot be built on cultural sacrifice.

—

Conclusion

We, urge you to oppose any bill that advances geothermal exploration or development through DBED or DHHL.

Our ‘āina is not a commodity.

Our sacred sites are not expendable.

Our people are not collateral damage.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Respectfully,

Elaine Poipe Keali‘iwahāmanā Makaio SanJose

Res. 38-250 Mauna Kea Access Road

Hilo, Hawai‘i

96720

Mailing: P.O.Box 6329

Hilo, Hawai‘i

HB-1307-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 8:04:34 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jeanne wheeler	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha: I absolutely oppose this bill - please do NOT pass it! Mahalo, JW

Submitted by: Lena J Carver

Position: Strong Opposition to HB1307 HD2

Aloha,

COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Chair Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III,

Vice Chair Senator Rachele Lamosao

**COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AFFAIRS**

Chair Senator Glenn Wakai

Chair Senator Stanley Chang

My name is Lena J Carver. I submit this testimony in strong opposition to any legislative measure that advances geothermal exploration, exploratory drilling, or geothermal development through the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBED) and/or the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL).

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Conclusion

I urge you to oppose any bill that advances geothermal exploration or development through DBED or DHHL.

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Our people are not collateral damage.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Respectfully,

**Lena J Carver
Keaau, Hawaii**

HB-1307-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/24/2026 6:45:16 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Krista Vessell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Again, Hawaiian HOMELANDS was created with the intent to HOUSE NATIVE HAWAIIANS, not use land to support private projects that poison communities and pump carcinogenic material into a volcano. DHHL has NO business doing ANYTHING connected to ANY business other than HOUSING NATIVE HAWAIIANS.